



Law Enforcement

Section

Annual Report

F Y 2 0 0 2

Table of Contents



Chief's Report 2002	2	Poaching-Reported Reward Permit Rule	19
Winter Olympics	2	Reward Permits	20
Officer Advisory Committee	2	Mission Statement	21
Training	2	Staff	21
Support To Other Programs	3	Instructor Training	21
Wildlife Law Enforcement	3	Hunting Accidents	21
Help Stop Poaching	3	Students Certified	21
Hunter Education	3	Students Trained	22
Shooting Centers	3	Current Projects	22
Written Warnings	4	Upcoming Projects (In Development)	22
Officer Compliment	4	Lee Kay Center For Hunter Education	22
Citations Issued	5	Improvements	24
Officer Contacts	5	Cache Valley Hunter Education Center	25
Types Of Contacts	6	Improvements	26
License Checks	6	Parting Thoughts From Conservation Officer	
Officer Hours	7	Gary Mckell	27
Compliance Rates	7	Utah Wildlife Officers Assist With The	
Violation Rates By Region	8	Olympics	28
Investigations, Warnings And		Investigators	29
Citations By Species	9	Southern Region	31
Types Of Violations By Species	10	Southeastern Region	38
Types Of Violations By Species	11	Salt Lake Office	41
Citations, Investigations And Warnings		Central Region	42
By County During 2002	12	Northern Region	51
Percent Citations By Violation Type	13	Northern Region	52
Help Stop Poaching	13	Northeastern Region	58
License Suspensions And Rewards	16	Northeastern Region	59
Reward Payments	17		

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Chief's Report 2002

By Chief Rudy Musclow

Chief Robert Elswood retired in March with more than 34 years experience. Rudy Musclow filled behind in an Acting position until May at which time he was appointed the new Chief of Law Enforcement. Chief Musclow has held several positions within the Division of Wildlife: a conservation officer, Sergeant, Investigator and Captain.

Since taking over as chief all law enforcement, policies and procedures were updated and have been revised. The law enforcement section started 2003 with five conservation officer districts and one Investigator position vacant. Two new officers have just been hired and begin their district assignments in February 2003. Officers continue to receive praise statewide for their excellent skills, abilities and dedication in all areas of law enforcement and public service.

WINTER OLYMPICS

2002 proved to be a busy year with 44 officers assigned to work the Winter Olympics. The only reported wildlife violations associated with the Olympics were helicopters harassing big game in deep snow in an effort to obtain video footage

OFFICER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As part of an overall effort to improve communications between administration and officers, an Officer Advisory Committee was formed in August 2002. The committee consists of ten officers selected by the Conservation Officer Association. The advisory committee has provided a successful conduit by which officers ideas, issues and concerns are heard, incorporated and/or resolved.

The first major task of the advisory committee was to revise the physical fitness and uniform policies. Considerable discussion and effort went into the review and revision of these policies. The Officer Advisory Committee continues to receive a high degree of support from administration and field

officers. The advisory committee met monthly at first and is now meeting quarterly. Approximately 15% of my time is spent addressing issues identified by this committee.

TRAINING

Training efforts continue to improve. Firearm training was emphasized in 2002 with all firearm instructors receiving advanced training. Instruction included the use of handguns, rifles and shotguns. Skills learned will be taught to all officers in 2003.

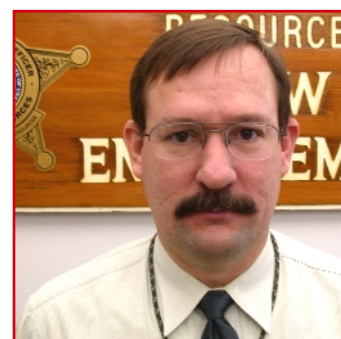
Five Glock 22c handguns were converted to simmunition guns in 2002. Firearms instructors received advanced training in the use of simmunition guns and will pass this knowledge along to other officers in 2003. Popper targets and timing devices were also purchased to bolster firearms training. Additional instructors were recruited and trained to be OC instructors (pepper spray), firearms and ASP (collapsible baton) instructors.

All officers attended Camp Wapiti, an annual wildlife law enforcement training. Camp Wapiti will continue in 2003 with the addition of an August training at Camp Williams. Training at Camp Williams will include intensive firearms instruction, emergency vehicle operations and arrest control.

Four new officers are nearing completion of the Field Training Officer (FTO) program while two new



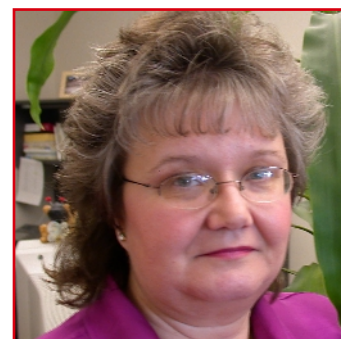
Chief Rudy Musclow



Captain Mike Fowlks

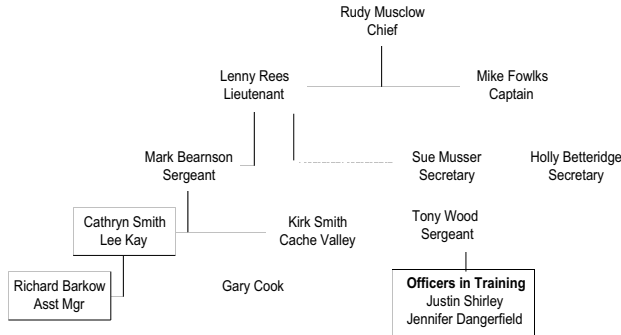


Sergeant Tony Wood



Holly Betteridge

Salt Lake Office



Salt Lake Office Organizational Chart

officers, Jennifer Dangerfield and Jay Shirley, are just beginning. Captain Mike Fowlks is currently working with FTO instructors to revise the FTO program which was last updated about ten years ago. The revised FTO program will emphasize getting more hands on training as opposed to classroom training.

SUPPORT TO OTHER PROGRAMS

With increasing budget shortfalls and six districts vacant, officers have been called upon to do a variety of tasks to assist the Division. In 2002, officers spent 12% of their time in non-law enforcement activities including wildlife depredation, population surveys and classification counts.

Forty-four officers volunteered to work the Winter Olympics while remaining officers covered behind. Prior to the Olympics officers kept busy moving moose from within the Salt Lake area and deer that were triggering motion sensors at Olympic Village. Most officers described their Olympic assignments as “a once in a lifetime experience”, however, they were also glad when they ended. Most assignments lasted approximately 30 days.

Another first for our officers was their use during major wildfires, which occurred across Utah in 2002. Officers were utilized at fires to perform all aspects of public safety such as enforcing road closures, patrolling evacuated residences and enforcing area closures. Officers rotated through seven-day shifts and were praised by the federal agencies involved for their professionalism and willingness to do whatever needed to be done.

WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

2002 was a busy year for wildlife law enforcement in Utah. Officers investigated 1,780 wildlife crimes issued 4,032 citations, wrote 810 warnings, contacted 108,537 sportsmen and checked 66,022 licenses. Officers also wrote numerous

newspaper and magazine articles and gave presentations at most hunter education classes.

License revocations continue to increase, resulting from a code change in 2001. Officers submitted 110 persons for revocations in 2002 with the revocation periods ranging from 1 to 21 years. Many revocations for 2002 have not yet been processed because the cases have not been fully adjudicated. Utah continues to maintain the Interstate Violator Compact database which now includes 16 states with 2752 defendants on revocation. Reward payments also continues to rise. \$17,550 was paid in rewards to 47 individuals in 2002. Utah also gives out limited entry big game permits as a reward. In 2001, five reward permits were issued. Reward permits for 2002 cases are just starting to be processed.

HELP STOP POACHING

Sergeant Tony Wood continues to increase the efforts in the Help Stop Poaching (HSP) program. Volunteers have been recruited to answer hotline calls after business hours and on weekends. Additionally, 100 metal signs advertising the Help Stop Poaching telephone number were purchased and placed throughout Utah. Several cellular phone companies have also initiated a toll free *DEER program, resulting in 500 wildlife investigations in 2002.

HUNTER EDUCATION

The hunter education branch of the law enforcement section remains busy by continually upgrading its programs and remaining current with progressive technology. Lieutenant Lenny Rees has initiated a web-based hunter education program in an effort to meet the needs of all our constituents. In 2002, there were 650 volunteer instructors trained and 10,248 students.

Hunter education has also been busy changing over to a new record keeping system and is assisting in the development of a web-based orientation course for Wasatch Front extended area archery hunters.

SHOOTING CENTERS

Hunter Education runs two shooting centers, Lee Kay and Cache Valley, in addition to a rural range development program. Cathryn Smith, who has kept busy upgrading and renovating the facility, manages the Lee Kay Center. During 2002 the Center trained 7,848 hunter education students with 22,373 patrons utilizing the shooting ranges.

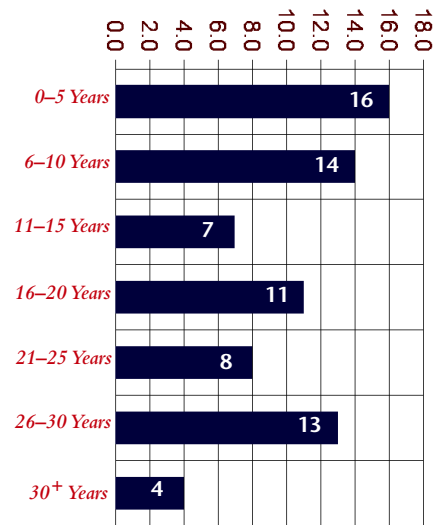
Kirk Smith manages the Cache Valley Center. Kirk continues to develop the Center, increasing community interest and involvement. The Center was used in 2002, to train 500 hunter education students and provide 15,355 patrons with shooting facilities.

OFFICER COMPLIMENT

Currently the law enforcement section has 45 conservation officers, eight sergeants and eight investigators in field positions. Five conservation officer districts remain vacant and one investigator position. These positions have remained vacant as a result of budgetary constraints. Two new officers Jennifer Dangerfield and Jay Shirley are awaiting assignment to districts. Gary McKell a 30-year veteran in the West Zion district has announced he will be retiring this spring.

All officers in the law enforcement section are eligible to retire after 20 years in the public safety retirement system. Twenty-five officers or 34 percent of the officers in the section are currently eligible for retirement. The following graph shows the number of years of service in five-year increments.

Officers — Years of Service

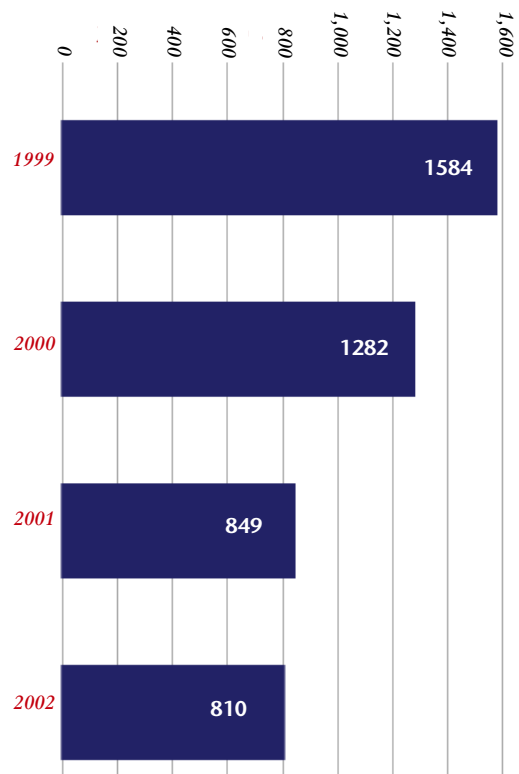


WRITTEN WARNINGS

The total number of written warnings has remained the same for the past two years. Officers continue to issue many more verbal warnings instead of written warnings. Verbal warnings are generally issued on very minor violations or when the officer does not have the time to issue a written warning because of other violations that are occurring. Most of the reduction in warnings for 2001 and 2002 can be attributed to reduced officers in the field.

Other factors contributing to reduced warnings are that a large number of officers (44) were assigned to the Winter Olympics, officers were also assigned to assist with law enforcement at three separate wildfires and officers have been increasingly called upon to assist with other biological duties which accounted for 12 percent of their time in 2002.

Written warnings issued



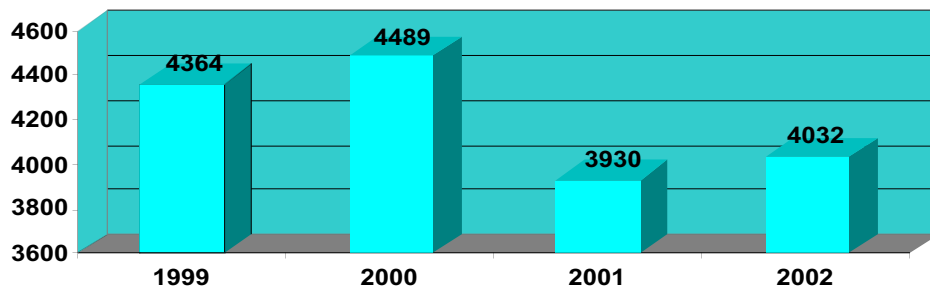
CITATIONS ISSUED

There were 4,032 citations were issued in 2002. Citation numbers took a drastic drop in 2001 and increased by 102 citations or 5.7percent in 2002. Some of the reduction in numbers during 2001 can be attributed to reduced officers in the field, increased compliance and budgetary constraints. Increased citations in 2002 may be partially attributed to increased special regulations on fishing waters.

The reduction in citations since 2000 closely correlates to the number of vacant conservation

officer districts. Six districts have been left vacant for budgetary reasons. Other factors contributing to reduced citations are the same as listed for warnings which are that a large number of officers (44) were assigned to the Winter Olympics, officers were also assigned to assist with law enforcement at three separate wildfires and officers have been increasingly called upon to assist with other biological duties which accounted for 12 percent of their time in 2002.

CITATIONS

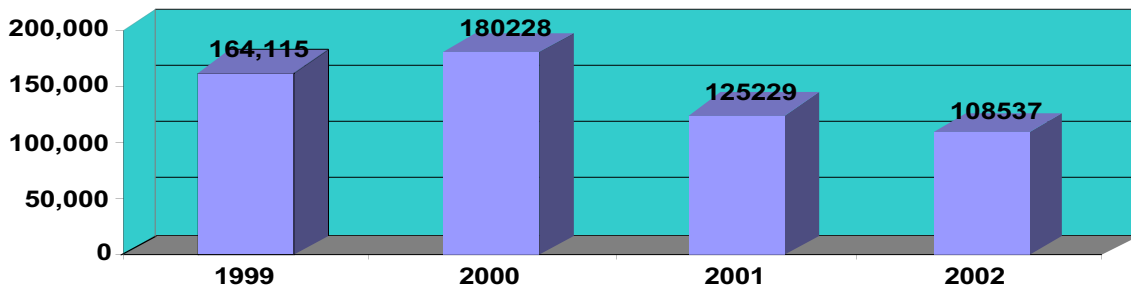


OFFICER CONTACTS

During the past four years officer contacts statewide have dropped from a high in 2000 of 180,228 to a low of 108,537. This reduction in contacts can be attributed to several factors. A reduction of officers, six districts have been vacant throughout most of 2002, record keeping problems, several officers show very few or no contacts for the entire year (this was a result of losing some data

while converting to a new program). The prolonged drought has also dramatically impacted contacts. Fishing license sales were down by 72,713 licenses in 2002 which resulted in less fishermen afield to contact. Budgetary constraints and increased compliance has also resulted in reduced patrols in some areas.

OFFICER CONTACTS



TYPES OF CONTACTS

The following table breaks officer contacts down by broad groups of wildlife species. Fishermen account for 47percent of the total contacts. Big game hunters account for the second largest group at 33percent of the total contacts.

Type Of Contact	Central Region	Northern Region	Northeastern Region	Southern Region	Southeastern Region
Fish	19,166	11,987	5,041	8,419	5,879
Migratory Birds	629	3,726	89	595	90
Upland Game	818	1,107	58	536	263
Big Game	11,007	7,432	4,792	8,401	4,620
Cougar/Bear	472	170	109	236	177
Furbearer	55	13	25	158	78
Miscellaneous	8,594	2,201	845	653	96
Regional Totals	40,741	26,636	10,959	18,998	11,203

LICENSE CHECKS

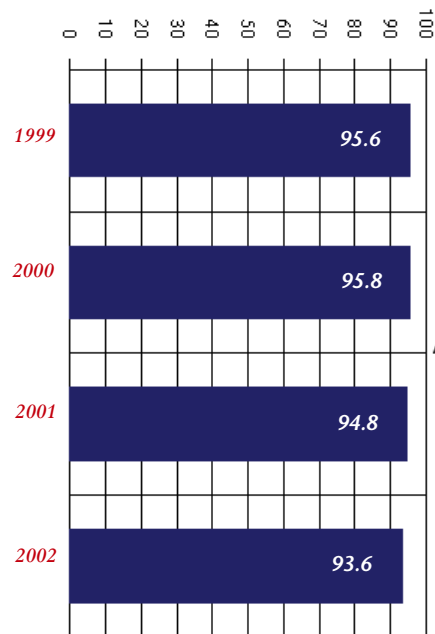
The following table is a breakdown on the different types of licenses checked by region.

License Checks	Central Region	Northern Region	Northeastern Region	Southern Region	Southeastern Region
Fish	12,927	9,353	3,948	5,794	3,967
Migratory Birds	420	3,189	58	464	50
Upland Game	562	428	52	376	158
Big Game	5,457	4,290	2,694	3,855	2,001
Cougar/Bear	77	57	27	47	50
Furbearer	7	8	5	34	12
Miscellaneous	4,187	1,050	288	40	135
Regional Totals	23,637	18,375	7,072	1,056	6,373

COMPLIANCE RATES

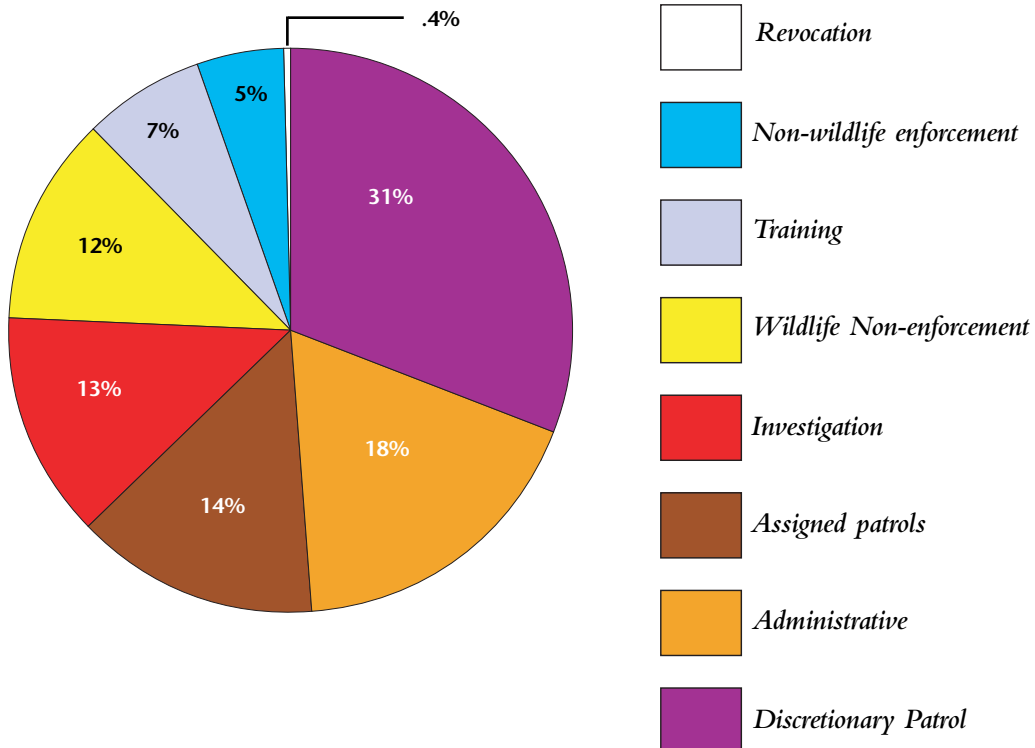
The compliance rate is determined by dividing the number of citations issued in 2002 by the number of licenses checked. In 2002, the statewide compliance rate was 93.6 percent.

Compliance rates



OFFICER HOURS

The following table and chart show how officers reported spending their time performing their duties and responsibilities.

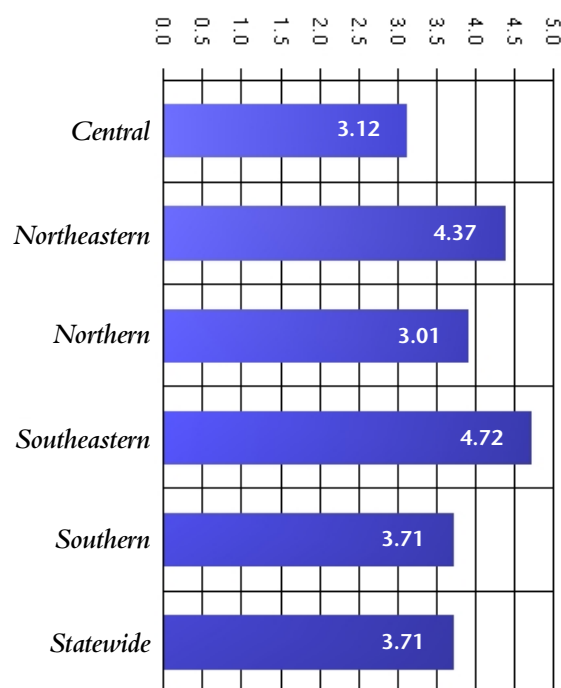


Officer Hours					
	Central Region	Northern Region	Northeastern Region	Southern Region	Southeastern Region
Fish	5,527	9,353	2,821	3,984	3,520
Migratory Birds	537	1,577	161	377	73
Upland Game	373	36	91	365	269
Big Game	7,555	6,775	4,187	7,662	4,740
Cougar/Bear	917	364	436	594	378
Furbearer	91	32	74	489	352
Miscellaneous	4,398	3,955	2,066	2,152	413
Regional Totals	19,398	17,210	9,836	15,623	9,745

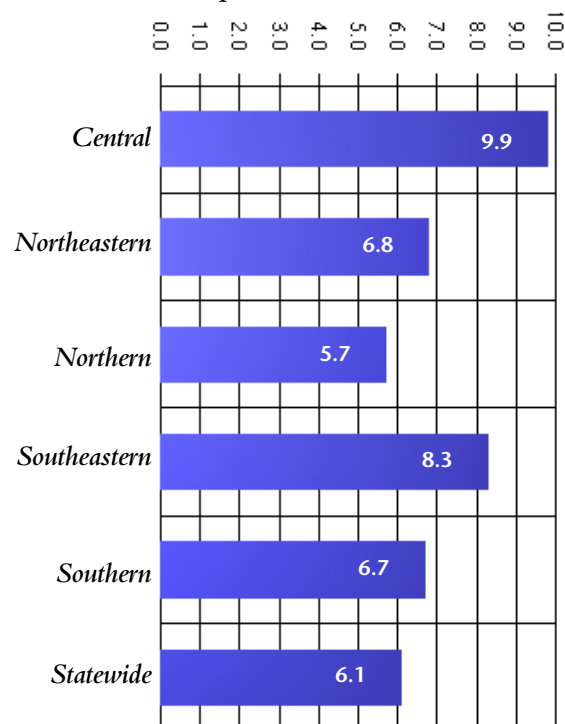
VIOLATION RATES BY REGION

Citations issued per 100 contacts varies from a high of 4.72 citations per 100 contacts in the southeastern region, to a low of 3.12 citations per 100 contacts in the central region. Violation rates were determined for fishing by dividing the number of citations issued with a species code of game fish by the total number of fishermen checked. The

Citations per 100 contacts



Fisherman violations per 100 licenses checked



statewide average was 3.71 citations issued per 100 contacts. It's important to note when interpreting this data that many of the contacts made by an officer are not of an enforcement nature, such as giving presentations to hunter education classes.

INVESTIGATIONS, WARNINGS AND CITATIONS BY SPECIES

Violation rates for species are consistent with the amount of time spent checking hunters and

fishermen and the numbers of licenses checked. Game fish are the highest in all categories followed by mule deer.

Species	Citations Issued	Warnings Issued	Illegal Kills	Violations Investigated
Antelope	2	3	17	23
Trophy Antelope	4	0	1	1
Mule Deer	553	130	395	720
Trophy Mule Deer	10	0	10	26
Elk	182	45	157	288
Trophy Elk	7	0	14	27
Desert Bighorn Sheep	0	0	2	3
Trophy Desert Bighorn Sheep	0	0	0	2
Moose	4	0	10	35
Trophy Moose	2	1	8	16
Rocky Mountain Goat	1	0	1	3
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep	0	0	0	2
Bald Eagle	0	0	2	5
Golden Eagle	1	1	3	9
Band Tailed Pigeon	1	0	0	0
Black Bear	10	2	14	27
Bison	0	0	6	5
Bobcat	18	7	59	30
Brine Shrimp	4	1	0	7
Cougar	6	4	10	31
Desert Tortoise	0	1	0	2
Mourning Doves	31	50	50	4
Waterfowl	167	66	70	62
Endangered Species	0	0	0	3
Furbearers	8	5	23	50
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	1	2
Non-Game Birds	30	4	62	20
Game Fish	2,091	389	1,381	187
Non-Game Fish	0	1	5	6
Non-Game Mammals	16	13	36	17
Raptors	9	2	20	17
Reptiles	2	1	13	7
Sandhill Crane	1	0	0	0
Threatened Species	1	1	1	5
Turkey	7	2	9	11
Upland Game	75	26	79	41
Utah Prairie Dog	6	0	19	2

TYPES OF VIOLATIONS BY SPECIES

The following is a table showing broad groups of violations by species. Other criminal violations

covers a wide variety of violation from drugs and alcohol to littering.

Antelope . . . . .	.5 Arrests
Wanton Destruction . . . . .	.3
Failure To Wear Hunter Orange . . . . .	.1
Aiding And Assisting . . . . .	.1

Trophy Antelope . . . . .	.4 Arrests
Firearm Violations . . . . .	.2
Wanton Destruction — Out Of Season . . . . .	.2

Bandtailed Pigeon — . . . . .	.1 Arrest
License Violations . . . . .	.1

Bear . . . . .	.14 Arrests
Other Criminal Violations . . . . .	.2
Unlawful Methods/Taking . . . . .	.4
Firearm Violations . . . . .	.1
Aiding And Assisting . . . . .	.2
Unlawful Captivity . . . . .	.2
Wanton Destruction . . . . .	.3

Bobcat . . . . .	.17 Arrests
License Violations . . . . .	.1
Tagging Violations . . . . .	.3
Wanton Destruction . . . . .	.3
Unlawful Methods/Taking . . . . .	.6
Aiding And Assisting . . . . .	.1
Spotlighting . . . . .	.1
Other Criminal Code . . . . .	.2

Cougar . . . . .	.13 Arrests
License Violation . . . . .	.2
Tagging Violations . . . . .	.2
Closed Area . . . . .	.3
Firearms Violations . . . . .	.1
Trespassing . . . . .	.4
Other Criminal Code . . . . .	.1

Ducks . . . . .	.141 Arrests
Firearm Violations . . . . .	.23
License Violations . . . . .	.30
Trespassing . . . . .	.19
Unlawful Methods / Taking . . . . .	.51
Unlawful Use Of Toxic Shot . . . . .	.2
No Hip Registration . . . . .	.2
Unplugged Shotgun . . . . .	.31
Other Criminal . . . . .	.1

Desert Bighorn Sheep . . . . .	.6 Arrests
License Violations . . . . .	.6

Deer . . . . .	.597 Arrests
Firearm Violations . . . . .	.115
Other Criminal Code Violations . . . . .	.84
License Violations . . . . .	.62
Trespassing . . . . .	.37
Wanton Destruction . . . . .	.74
Unlawful Methods / Taking . . . . .	.94
Aiding And Assisting . . . . .	.14
Juvenile Violations . . . . .	.3
Tagging Violations . . . . .	.51
Transporting Violations . . . . .	.3
Wasting . . . . .	.6
Harassing . . . . .	.2
Failure To Wear Hunter Orange . . . . .	.13
Failure To Leave Evidence Of Sex . . . . .	.1
Spotlighting . . . . .	.21
Unquivered Arrows . . . . .	.14
Unlawful Captivity Of Deer . . . . .	.1
Hunting Without Adult Supervision . . . . .	.2

Trophy Deer . . . . .	.14 Arrests
Aiding And Assisting . . . . .	.1
License Violations . . . . .	.4
Unlawful Methods/Taking . . . . .	.1
Wanton Destruction . . . . .	.7
Other Criminal Violations . . . . .	.1

Dove . . . . .	.31 Arrests
Wanton Destruction . . . . .	.3
Firearm Violations . . . . .	.3
License Violations . . . . .	.5
Out Of Season . . . . .	.1
Trespassing . . . . .	.6
Unplugged Shotgun . . . . .	.12
Unlawful Methods/Taking . . . . .	.1

Game Fish . . . . .	.2,083 Arrests
License Violations . . . . .	.1160
Other Criminal Code Violations . . . . .	.160
Firearm Violations . . . . .	.1
Harassing Wildlife . . . . .	.2
Wanton Destruction . . . . .	.73
Trespassing . . . . .	.45
Unlawful Methods/Taking . . . . .	.629
Aiding And Assisting . . . . .	.4
Transporting/Shipping Violations . . . . .	.1
Wasting /Spoiling Protected Wildlife . . . . .	.1
Harassing Protected Wildlife . . . . .	.2
Unlawful Use Of Corn Or Bait . . . . .	.4

TYPES OF VIOLATIONS BY SPECIES

The following is a table showing broad groups of violations by species. Other criminal violations

covers a wide variety of violation from drugs and alcohol to littering.

Elk	220 Arrests
Firearm Violations .....	.23
License Violations .....	.19
Wanton Destruction .....	.35
Other Criminal Code Violations .....	.30
Tagging Violations .....	.20
Trespassing .....	.25
Unlawful Methods/Taking .....	.41
Failure To Wear Hunter Orange .....	.4
Wasting .....	.2
Failure To Leave Evidence Of Sex .....	.1
No Hunter Orange .....	.3
Spotlighting .....	.5
Aiding And Assisting .....	.9
Juvenile Violations .....	.1
Unlawful Possession Of Antlers/Horns .....	.1

Trophy Elk	10 Arrests
Wanton Destruction – Antler Restriction .....	.4
Aiding And Assisting .....	.2
Unlawful Methods/Taking .....	.2
License Violations .....	.2

Furbearers .....	.8 Arrests
Unlawful Methods/Taking .....	.5
License Violations .....	.3

Geese	20 Arrests
Unlawful Taking/After Legal Hours .....	.5
Trespassing .....	.1
License Violations .....	.1
Unlawful Methods/Taking .....	.11
Interference With Hunters .....	.2

Golden Eagle .....	.1 Arrest
Unlawful Taking Of Protected Wildlife .....	.1

Moose .....	.4 Arrests
Wanton Destruction .....	.2
Wrong Sex .....	.2

Trophy Moose .....	.2 Arrests
Wasting Of Protected Wildlife .....	.1
Unlawful Taking—Trespass .....	.1

Nongame Birds	28 Arrests
Firearm Violations .....	.5
Wanton Destruction .....	.5
Unlawful Methods/Taking .....	.18

Nongame Mammals	15 Arrests
Firearm Violations .....	.6
Spotlighting .....	.5
Trespassing .....	.2
Other Criminal Violations .....	.2

Raptors (Not T&E)	15 Arrests
Falconry Rule Violations .....	.4
Unlawful Methods/Taking .....	.9
Wanton Destruction .....	.2

Reptiles .....	.3 Arrests
Wanton Destruction .....	.1
Unlawful Taking/Methods .....	.1
Other Criminal Violation .....	.1

Rocky Mountain Goat .....	.1 Arrest
Wasting .....	.1

Sandhill Crane .....	.1 Arrest
License Violations .....	.1

Threatened Species .....	.1 Arrest
License Violations .....	.1

Turkey .....	.6 Arrests
Firearm Violations .....	.1
Other Criminal Code Violations .....	.4
Hunting In Closed Area .....	.1

Utah Prairie Dog .....	.7 Arrests
Trespassing .....	.2
Firearm Violations .....	.3
License Violations .....	.1
Unlawful Methods/Taking .....	.1

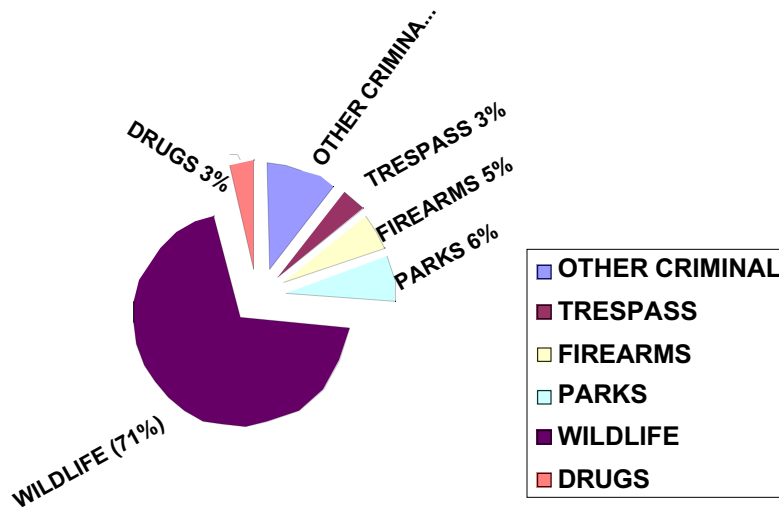
Upland Game .....	.57 Arrests
Firearm Violations .....	.13
License Violations .....	.9
Trespassing .....	.4
Other Criminal Code Violations .....	.1
Wanton Destruction .....	.4
Unlawful Taking .....	.11
Spotlighting .....	.6

Whistling Swan .....	.6 Arrests
Unlawful Methods/Taking .....	.4
Unlawful Use Of Toxic Shot .....	.1
Failure To Tag .....	.1

CITATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS AND WARNINGS BY COUNTY DURING 2002

County	Citations	Investigation	Warnings	Grand Total
Wasatch	618	100	17	735
Utah	358	137	27	522
Summit	345	116	48	509
Washington	162	124	104	390
Box Elder	196	58	126	380
Weber	168	85	35	288
Sevier	110	99	69	278
San Juan	210	41	27	278
Cache	129	57	72	258
Iron	86	130	39	255
Duchesne	174	66	5	245
Uintah	136	89	12	237
Davis	122	55	34	211
Carbon	130	53	19	202
Salt Lake	86	82	31	199
Sanpete	142	52	2	196
Garfield	116	69	8	193
Tooele	148	30	9	187
Kane	99	45	35	179
Daggett	116	36	4	156
Millard	78	50	21	149
Emery	94	34	2	130
Rich	63	20	8	91
Piute	41	21	18	80
Grand	12	42	11	65
Juab	46	14	5	65
Beaver	19	32	6	57
Wayne	6	26	13	45
Morgan	22	15	3	40
Out Of State		2		2
Grand Total	4,032	1,780	810	6,622

PERCENT CITATIONS BY VIOLATION TYPE



HELP STOP POACHING

The Division of Wildlife's Law Enforcement Section operates the Help Stop Poaching Hotline. The program was established in 1981, and has steadily evolved since. The Hotline is staffed around the clock, 365 days per year. Law enforcement personnel at the Salt Lake City DWR headquarters handle calls for service received during business

hours. Calls occurring after business hours, on weekends and holidays, are routed to a team of non-sworn volunteers.

The Help Stop Poaching Hotline accounted for 30 percent of the 1,655 investigations performed by Utah Conservation Officers last year. The 500 wildlife violation reports received in 2002 is an increase of 13 percent over 2001 totals. Calls to the Hotline have more than doubled since 1999. This increase

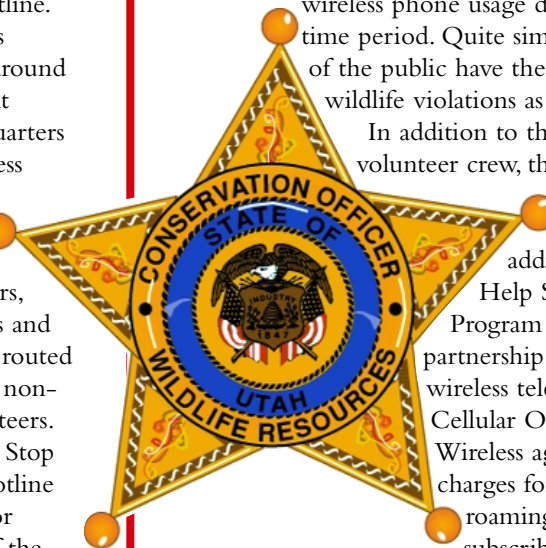
is undoubtedly due in part to the vast increase in wireless phone usage during the same time period. Quite simply, more members of the public have the means to report wildlife violations as they are observed.

In addition to the inclusion of the volunteer crew, the program saw many other changes and additions in 2002. The

Help Stop Poaching Program established a partnership with two Utah wireless telephone providers. Cellular One and UBET Wireless agreed to absorb air charges for subscribers, and roaming fees for non-subscribers that report

wildlife violations using wireless telephones. These two companies cover the majority of rural Utah. To take advantage of this feature, most wireless users can simply dial *DEER, and press SEND. The toll-free 1-800-662-DEER number is still operating, and must be used by traditional telephones, and those unable to utilize the new *DEER option. The Division of Wildlife would like to thank Cellular One and UBET Wireless for their generous assistance, and dedication to Utah's wildlife.

In the fall of 2002, the Help Stop Poaching program purchased 100 signs for placement in high use areas throughout the State of Utah. It is hoped



In 2002 long time hunter education instructor, Steve Newton, contacted Chief Rudy Musclow. Newton was interested in helping the law enforcement section with the Help Stop Poaching program. It was proposed that Newton and several others assist with answering calls for service on the hotline. On July 17th the newly formed volunteer crew took over that duty. The Division of Wildlife would like to thank the members of the Help Stop Poaching volunteer crew. Members are Steve, Riley and Mark Newton, Bret Brockmeier, Brad Baird and TJ Robertson. Their invaluable assistance has made it possible for the Division to improve and advance the program in a way that has not been previously possible.



that these signs will serve to remind recreating Utahns of the program, and to encourage them to take an active role in the protection of the state's wildlife.

In 2002 the Help Stop Poaching Program began the process of developing a self-contained wildlife law enforcement and poaching education display to be used at various events throughout the state. Most state and national non-profit wildlife organizations



This SLOC trailer will be converted into a mobile poaching display.

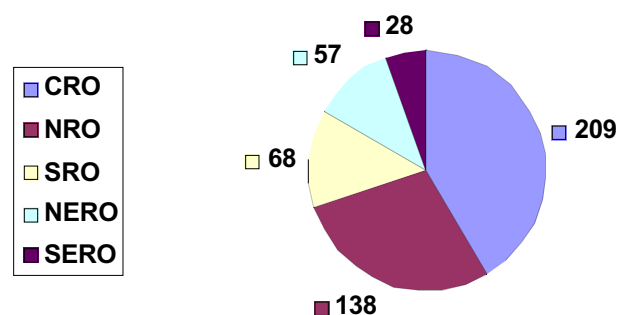
have been asked to assist with the initiation of the program. The Division will continue to actively promote the Help Stop Poaching Program through various cooperative outreach efforts in 2003.



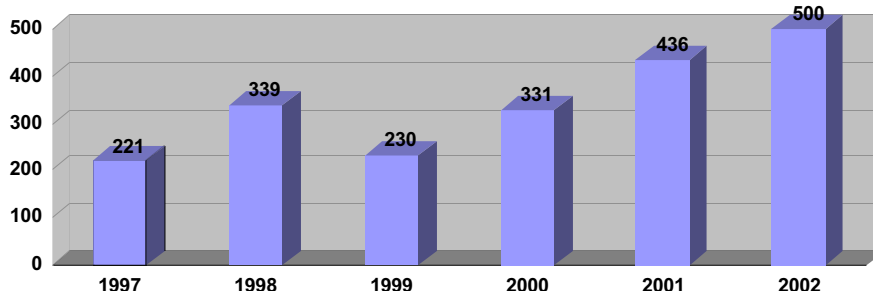
In an effort to make the Help Stop Poaching program more recognizable, we developed a logo that will be incorporated into bumper stickers and other various outreach materials.

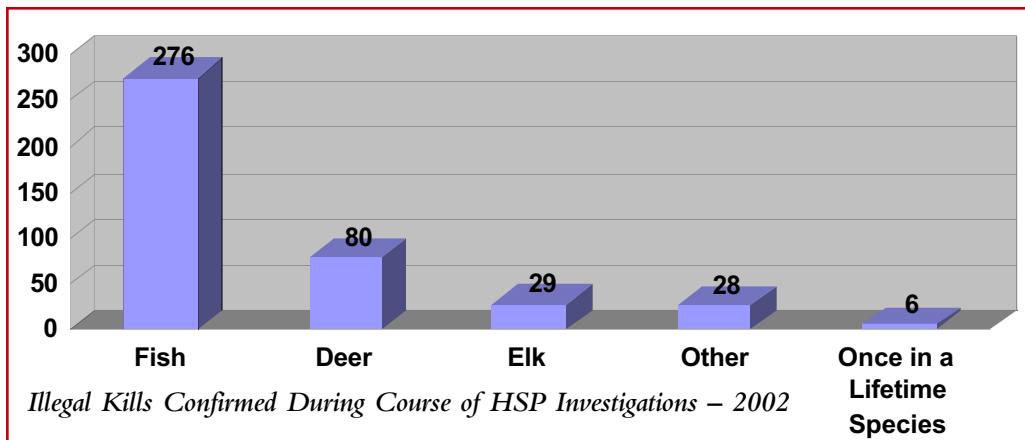
Wildlife violation reports directed to the Help Stop Poaching Hotline continue to increase. The following charts show the number of calls received by DWR Officers since 1997, the regional distribution of calls and the confirmed illegal kills by species in 2002.

Help Stop Poaching Calls by Region — 2002



Help Stop Poaching Initiated Investigations — 1997-2002





for the illegal killing of a trophy bull elk in the Heber area. The animal was killed in early March, 2002. Charged with felony level violations for their actions, both men were eventually ordered to

Utah's 73 conservation officers rely heavily upon public support and assistance when enforcing the laws intended to protect wildlife. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that ethical outdoorsmen stand firmly with the Division against those who would destroy Utah's wildlife. The continued public support of this program sends a clear message that Utah sportsmen will no longer tolerate behavior that erodes public support for the outdoor sports. The following brief summaries demonstrate the wide variety of calls for service received by Utah Wildlife Officers in 2002.



Two trophy deer killed by a Book Cliffs permittee.

Conservation Officer Terry Smith identified three Vernal area residents responsible for killing two trophy mule deer on the Bookcliffs unit. The animals were killed by a limited entry permit holder that was unhappy with his first animal, a 26" wide, four point buck. That animal was taken from the unit and tagged by a northeastern region general permittee. A second trophy deer was killed shortly thereafter, also a four point, it measured 25" wide. This case is currently pending adjudication in Eighth District Court.

Conservation Officers Jodi Becker and Brad Probst identified two Utah County men responsible

collectively pay a restitution amount of \$8,000. The firearms utilized during the crime were confiscated by the court, and they have both been submitted for DWR license suspension. This case was initiated



Firearms used to poach a trophy elk

when a concerned citizen called the Help Stop Poaching hotline.

Three fishermen were arrested on June 1, 2002 at Tooele County's Vernon Reservoir after Conservation Officer Jerry Schlappi found them to be 90 fish over their legal limit. The subjects pleaded guilty in Tooele County Justice Court, where they were fined \$960 in addition to a yet undetermined restitution fee. This case was initiated when a concerned citizen observed the subjects wives and children hauling several large plastic bags filled with fish to their vehicle.

A California man has pleaded guilty to Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife after unlawfully killing a wild turkey on the Monroe unit in southern Utah. On April 27th 2002, Wildlife Resources personnel received a call on the Help Stop Poaching hotline concerning turkey poaching. The complainant, a legal turkey hunter, noticed a vehicle with non-resident license plates parked along the roadway. Further observation revealed two men



Two men carrying a poached Turkey from the Monroe Unit.

attempting to conceal themselves in nearby oak brush. The complainant then realized that the subjects were carrying a turkey. He took several photographs of the men and recorded the vehicle license plate number. Conservation Officer Wade Hovinga met with the complainant, gathered the evidence and located the poachers at a Monroe residence. The subject subsequently pleaded guilty in Sevier County Justice Court, and was ordered to pay a \$185 fine.

LICENSE SUSPENSIONS AND REWARDS

The Law Enforcement Section initiates suspension proceedings on most convictions of Wanton Destruction, which is defined in Utah Statute 23-20-4. The suspension process is a civil procedure that provides remediation to the states wildlife and to the sportsmen of the state of Utah. Utah is also a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact and therefore most

of these suspensions are honored in 16 other states. Juveniles do not qualify for Compact suspension. In 2002 there were 110 suspensions handed down by the hearing officer of which 95 qualified for the Compact. The following tables have the statistics for the last three years by region.

2002 License Suspensions and Types

Region	Fishing	Big Game Hunting	Small Game Hunting	All	Hunting & Fishing	Hunting & Trapping	All Hunting	Cougar Bear	Trapping	Falconry	Totals
Central	2	20	4				4				30
Northeastern	1	12		1				1			15
Northern	8	14	3		1		7				33
Southeastern	1	12	1				3		1	1	19
Southern		7	1				1	2	2		13
Totals	12	65	9	1	1		15	3	3	1	110

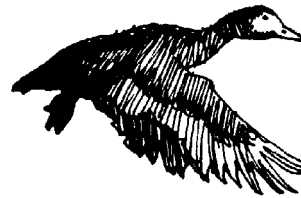
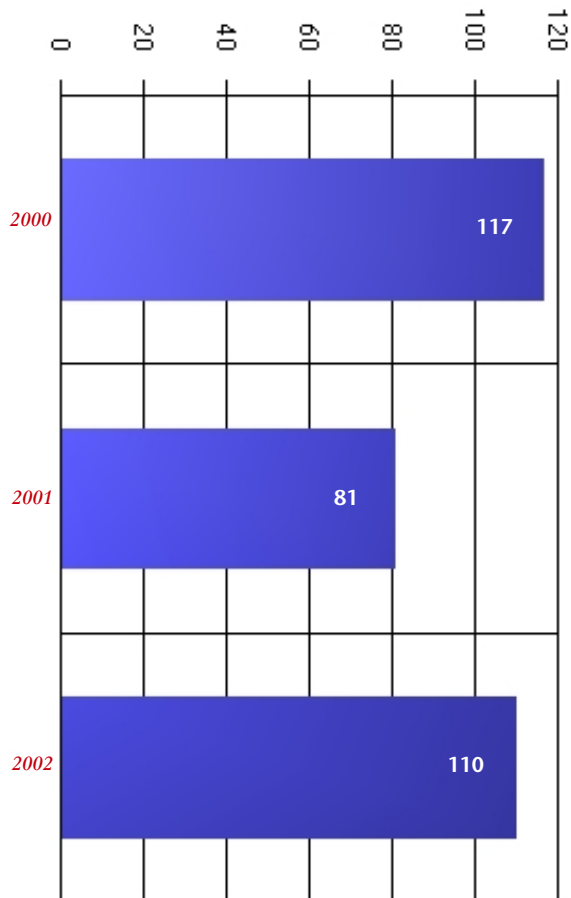
2001 License Suspensions and Types

Region	Fishing	Big Game Hunting	Small Game Hunting	All	Hunting & Fishing	Hunting & Trapping	All Hunting	Cougar Bear	Trapping	Falconry	Totals
Central	2	20	1	1	1	1	1				27
Northeastern	1	12		1				1			15
Northern	3	16	2	1							22
Southeastern		8	4								12
Southern		4		1							5
Totals	6	60	7	4	1	1	1	1			81

2000 License Suspensions and Types

Region	Fishing	Big Game Hunting	Small Game Hunting	All	Hunting & Fishing	Hunting & Trapping	All Hunting	Cougar Bear	Trapping	Falconry	Totals
Central	3	15						1			19
Northeastern		34	1				1				36
Northern		10	1		1		3				15
Southeastern	5	12									17
Southern	1	22	2		2			3			30
Totals	9	93	4		3		4	4			117

Suspensions



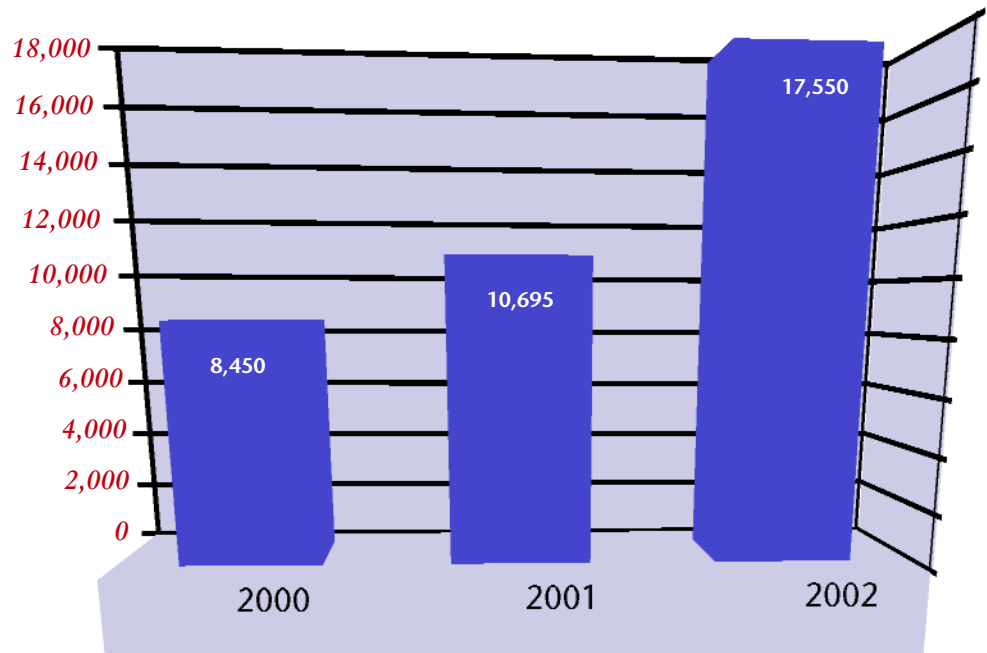
REWARD PAYMENTS

Reward payments are offered to those individuals who have taken the time and effort to report a wildlife violation that results in an arrest and “successful prosecution”. Successful prosecution means the screening, filing of charges and subsequent adjudication for the poaching incident. Rewards are also a means that officers can use to provide an incentive to encourage those informants that may otherwise be reluctant to provide information. Rewards are considered whenever citizens provide information that results in an arrest and conviction. The amount of a reward is not based on the fine or jail sentence imposed by the court. Persons receiving a reward permit are not eligible for a monetary reward.

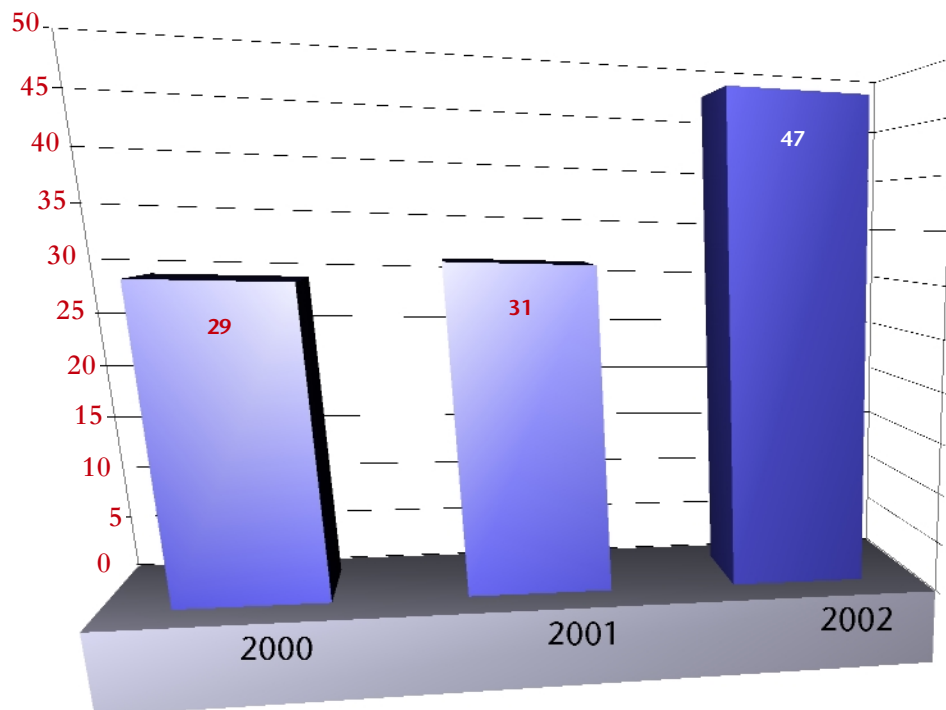
Reward Payments

Region	2002	2001	2000
Central	20 Rewards Totaling \$5,750	8 Rewards Totaling \$2,875	5 Rewards Totaling \$800
Northeastern	12 Rewards Totaling \$3,110	9 Rewards Totaling \$3,475	5 Rewards Totaling \$2,350
Northern	3 Rewards Totaling \$1,200	8 Rewards Totaling \$2,675	7 Rewards Totaling \$2,500
Southeastern	8 Rewards Totaling \$6,200	4 Rewards Totaling \$700	7 Rewards Totaling \$2,000
Southern	4 Rewards Totaling \$1,300	2 Rewards Totaling \$970	5 Rewards Totaling \$800
Totals	47 Rewards Totaling \$17,550	31 Rewards Totaling \$10,695	29 Rewards Totaling \$8,450

Rewards paid in dollars



Number of reward payments



POACHING-REPORTED REWARD PERMIT RULE

(1) Any person who provides information leading to another person's arrest and successful prosecution for wanton destruction of a bull moose, desert bighorn ram, rocky mountain bighorn ram, rocky mountain goat, bison, bull elk, buck deer or buck pronghorn under Section 23-20-4 for any once-in-a-lifetime species or within any limited entry area may receive a permit from the division to hunt for the same species and on the same once-in-a-lifetime or limited entry area where the violation occurred, except as provided in Subsection (2).

(2)(a) In the event that issuance of a poaching-reported reward permit would exceed 5percent of the total number of limited entry or once-in-a-lifetime permits issued in the following year for the respective area, a permit shall not be issued for that respective area. As an alternative, the division may issue a permit as outlined in Subsections (b) or (c).

(b) If the illegally taken animal is a bull moose, desert bighorn ram, rocky mountain bighorn ram, Rocky Mountain goat or bison, a permit for an alternative species and an alternative once-in-a-lifetime or limited entry area that has been allocated more than 20 permits may be issued.

(c) If the illegally taken animal is a bull elk, buck deer or buck pronghorn, a permit for the same species on an alternative limited entry area that has been allocated more than 20 permits may be issued.

(3)(a) The division may issue only one poaching-reported reward permit for any one animal illegally taken.

(b) No more than one poaching-reported reward permit shall be issued to any one person per successful prosecution.

(c) No more than one poaching-reported reward permit per species shall be issued to any one person in any one calendar year.

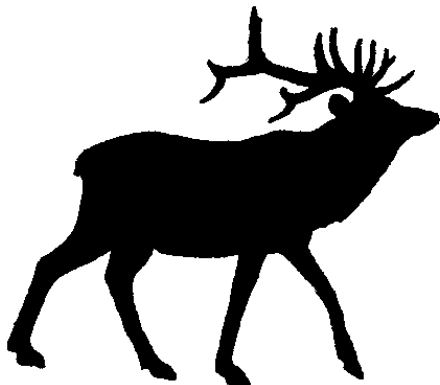
(4)(a) Poaching-reported reward permits may only be issued to the person who provides the most pertinent information leading to a successful prosecution. Permits are not transferable.

(b) If information is received from more than one person, the director of the division shall make a determination based on the facts of the case, as to which person provided the most pertinent information leading to the successful prosecution in the case.

(c) The person providing the most pertinent information shall qualify for the poaching-reported reward permit.

(5) Any person who receives a poaching-reported reward permit must be eligible to hunt and obtain big game permits as provided in all rules and regulations of the Wildlife Board and the Wildlife Resources Code.

(6) For purposes of this section, "successful prosecution" means the screening, filing of charges and subsequent adjudication for the poaching incident.



REWARD PERMITS

The table below lists all Reward Permits that have been issued as a result of information turned in on

poaching cases. The breakdown is by Region/Year. In 2002 we issued a total of 18 permits.

Region	Year	Area of Poaching/ Type of Animal	Type and Number of Permit Issued
CRO	2002	Vernon/ Deer 2 cases	Vernon Deer-2
		Utah County South/ Turkey	Utah County South/ Turkey-1
		Wasatch/ Elk	Wasatch Elk-1
		Nebo/ Elk	Nebo/ Elk-1
		Wasatch/ Mtn. Goat	Wasatch/ Mtn. Goat-1
	2001	East Canyon/ Moose	East Canyon/ Moose-1
		Wasatch/ Elk	Wasatch/ Elk-1
		Nebo/ Elk	Nebo/Elk-1
	2000	Wasatch/ Elk	Wasatch/ Elk-1
NERO	2002	Three Corners/ Elk	Three Corners/ Elk-1
		Book Cliffs/ Deer	Book Cliffs/ Deer-1
	2001	Anthro/ Elk	Anthro/ Elk-1
		Wasatch/ Elk	Wasatch/ Elk-1
	2000	Bookcliffs/ Elk	Bookcliffs/ Elk-1
		Anthro/ Elk	Bookcliffs/ Elk-1
		Diamond Mtn./ Deer	Diamond Mtn./ Deer-1
		Three Corners/ Elk	Three Corners/ Elk-1
		Three Corners/ Moose	San Juan/ Elk-1
NRO	2002	Cache North/ Elk	Cache North/ Elk-1
		Cache South/ Elk	Cache South/ Elk-1
SERO	2002	Manti/ Elk 4 Cases	Manti/ Elk-4
		Henry Mt./ Deer	Henry Mt./ Deer-1
	2001	La Sal/ Turkey	La Sal/ Turkey-1
	2000	Dolores Triangle/ Deer	Dolores Triangle/ Deer-1
SRO	2002	Paunsaugunt/ Deer 3 Cases	Paunsaugunt/ Deer-3
		Pahvant/ Elk	Pahvant/ Elk-1
	2001	Fish Lake/ Elk	Fish Lake/ Elk-1
	2000	Paunsaugunt/ Deer 2 Cases	Paunsaugunt/ Deer-2

Hunter Education

ANNUAL REPORT 2002

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Hunter Education Program is to form a partnership between the Division of Wildlife Resources and volunteers to educate hunters to be: Safe, Knowledgeable, Responsible and Involved.

STAFF

The staff of the hunter education program consists of the Hunter Education Coordinator (Lieutenant), Assistant Hunter Education Coordinator (Sergeant), one Administrative Support Position, two Hunter Education Center Managers, and two Hunter Education Assistant Managers. The program includes 650 active volunteer Hunter Education instructors.



Lt. Lenny Rees



*Sgt. Mark Bearnson
Hunter Ed. Coordinator*



*Sue Musser
Secretary, Asst. Coordinator*

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

Six courses for initial instructor training were held in Salt Lake, Springville, Fillmore, Orderville, and Price. Sixty-six instructors received this initial 20-hour course. Eight in-service training seminars were held throughout the state, training 327 current instructors. A four-day hunter education academy was held at Camp Williams, training 47 active instructors.

HUNTING ACCIDENTS

The division has documented five hunting accidents during 2002. All of which were non-fatal. Coupled with the selling of 238,000 permits during the year, the accident rate is 2.1 per 100,000 hunters.

STUDENTS CERTIFIED

A total of 10,248 students were certified in the hunter education program during 2002. Students



receive a minimum of 12 hours of instruction with most courses running 15 hours. Courses include training on: firearm safety, hunter responsibility, wildlife management, survival, wildlife identification, and more. Testing includes a written, attitude and shooting proficiency test.



Conservation Officers play an important role when talking to students enrolled in the Hunter Safety classes.

STUDENTS TRAINED (EDDIE EAGLE, OUTREACH, ETC.)

Various programs fall under the preview of the hunter education program. They include: presentation of the Eddie Eagle gun safety program in the Tooele and Washington county school districts (11,500), the Outreach Trailer — Mobile pellet gun range (3,750), Safety Fairs (1,100), and the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (78). Twenty of the YHEC participants traveled to Pennsylvania to compete in the NRA's International Hunter Education Challenge. Combined, the programs reached more than 16,400 young people of the state bringing a message of firearm safety and ethical conduct.

CURRENT PROJECTS

The Green River shooting complex has completed the 2nd phase of construction. The only remaining items are concrete under the shooting canopy and installation of sidewalks. When fully operational, the facility will sport a 200, 300, and 600 yard rifle range with 20 firing points. It also includes a multi-purpose pistol, hunter education qualification range.

Work was recently completed on upgrades to the Emery County Sheriff's range. The hunter education program contributed 2,000 dollars to assist in the completion of the project. This will allow hunter education instructors access to the range for qualification purposes.

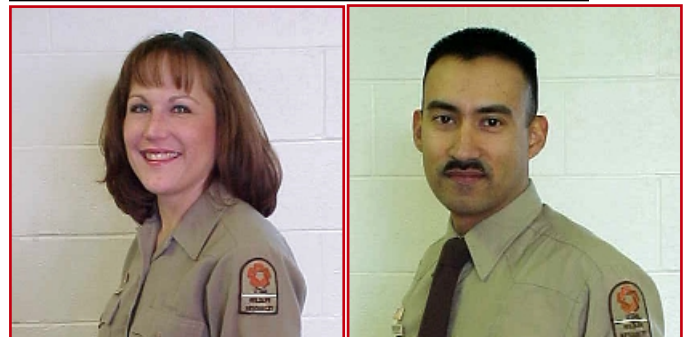
UPCOMING PROJECTS (IN DEVELOPMENT)

With the passing of recent rules, requirements have been set in place requiring hunters who hunt in the Wasatch extended area to complete an orientation course. This has been put in place to curb problems arising from urban hunting situations. The course will be Internet based.

The hunter education program will be introducing an Internet based program in early 2003. This program will allow distance based learning to occur, with a final "field day" activity to complete the course. The field day will consist of a minimum of five hours of instruction that will include hands-on training, crossing obstacles with firearms, shoot - don't shoot scenarios, loading and unloading firearms, wildlife ID and more. They will then finish up with the written and shooting test.

LEE KAY CENTER FOR HUNTER EDUCATION

The Lee Kay Center for Hunter Education is an 1,250 acre training and public shooting complex located at 6000 West 2100 South in Salt Lake City, Utah. Phone/Fax #801-972-1326.



*Cathryn Smith
Manager*

*Richard Barkow
Asst. Manager*

400-acre shooting facility is entirely outdoors

- Shooting benches are covered.

50-Foot Range

- 47 shooting stations for multi-position Hunter Education.
- Qualification .22 long rimfire rifle only.

70-Yard Range

- 34 shooting stations, bench rest or off-hand.
- 15, 25, 50 and 70 yard target lines.

100 Yard Range

- Military style open-fire range. Underground target pit accessed by tunnel through berm.
- 16 shooting stations

200/300 Yard Range

- Military style open-fire range. Underground target pit accessed sidewalk behind 100 yard berm.
- 15 shooting stations

Shot Gun Concession

- 15 Trap Fields
- 3 Skeet Fields

Archery Range

- 8 outdoor shooting stations set up in 10 yard increments from 10 to 60 yards.

Dog Training Area

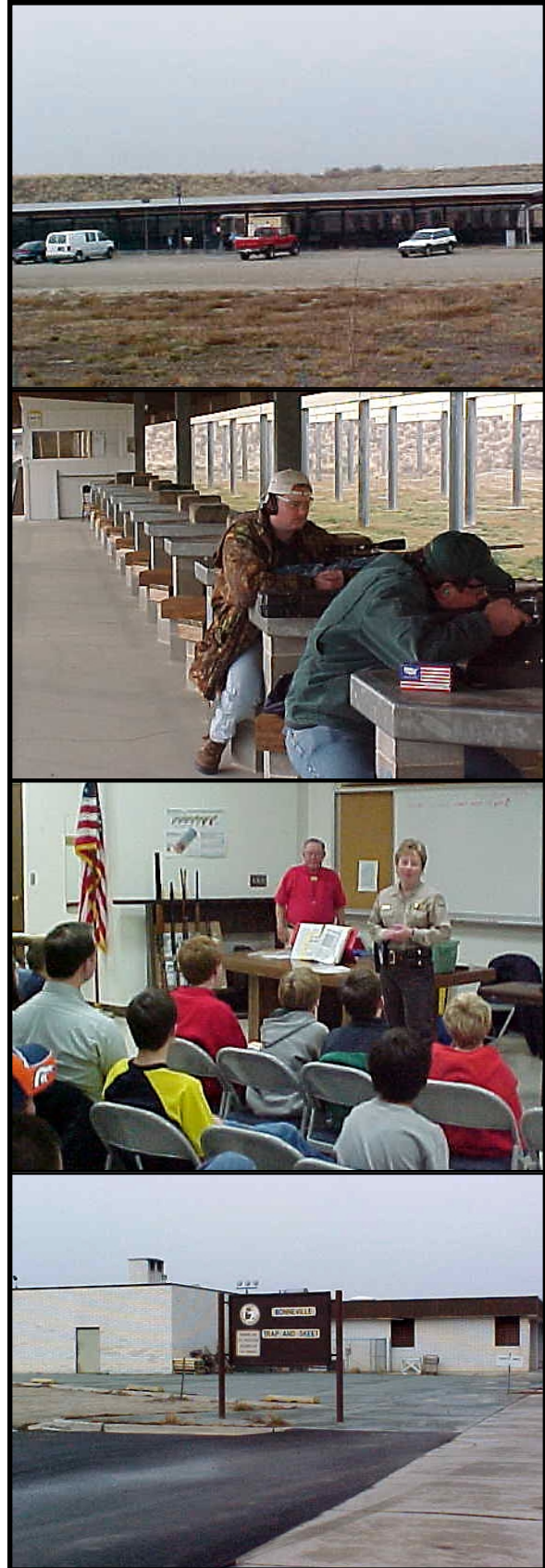
- 850 acres with ponds. Used year round.

The training center houses a 200-seat auditorium that may be divided into two classrooms

- Annual number of students in classroom — 7,848
- Annual number of students qualified on range — 3,112
- Annual Patrons at Shotgun Facility — 4,026
- Annual Patrons at Archery/Handgun/Rifle ranges — 22,373
- 67 adult and 7 junior volunteers contributed a total of 8,861.5 hours of service at a total value of \$188,966.68 of in-kind match

Fee Schedule:

Adult daily pass	\$ 4.00
Adult 10 day annual punch pass	30.00
Youth daily pass	2.00
Youth 10 day annual punch pass	15.00
Eye protection	4.00
Hearing protection . . . . .	.50
Targets . . . . .	.25
Spotting Scope Rental	2.00



IMPROVEMENTS

Archery Range:

- Constructed all new target frames, which use compressed carpeting as filler.

70 yard range:

- Target frame bases added to extend 50 yard range to 70 yard range.
- New cement shooting pad.
- Deflectors installed between each shooting station.
- Adjusted bench height across range.
- Installed swivel swing away seats at each station.
- Installed windbreak material.
- Installed Range Officer shack.

Facility:

- Asphalted parking lot will be installed in phases. First two phases are complete.
- Sprinkler system around training center installed, landscaping to follow in spring.
- Decayed bricks have been replaced on the training center.
- Wood signage repainted.
- Gates, fencing, and signage installed inside compound for safety and security.
- Water main lines and valves replaced.
- Septic lines replaced.

Hunter Education Trap/Skeet Field:

- 5 stand sporting clays range to be installed.

Dog Training Area:

- Road improvements, noxious weed elimination, and fencing repair have been done and will be done on a continuing basis until jobs are complete.



CACHE VALLEY HUNTER EDUCATION CENTER

The Cache Valley Hunter Education Center a 68-acre training and public shooting complex located at 2851 West 200 North in Logan, Utah.

Phone 435-753-4600, Fax 435-787-4695.



*Kirk Smith (right), Manager
Gary Cook (left), Asst. Manager*

Archery Range

- 10 point indoor shooting range set up at 20 yards.
- 10 point outdoor site-in range from 10 to 80 yards.

50' Smallbore Indoor Range

- 9 shooting point for multi-position Hunter Education Qualification, general public use and organized tournaments .22 long rimfire rifle only

50 Yard Range

50 Foot Outdoor Range

- 14 shooting points with concrete benches
- 15 shooting points with metal mesh dividers, and covered roof, 25 and 50 yard target lines shooting benches and covered roof, 25' and 50' target lines

Shotgun Facility

- 1 Trap Fields
- 2 Combination Trap & Skeet Fields
- 1 Combination Trap, Riverside Skeet & Five-Stand Sporting Clays Field

100 Yard Range

- 14 shooting points with concrete benches and covered roof.



- Three classrooms with a capacity of 35 persons each.
- Indoor archery, smallbore range, main office and restrooms
- Annual number of Hunter Education Students in classroom and shoot range – 500
- Annual patrons at Archery/Handgun/Rifle ranges – 9,008
- Annual patrons at Shotgun Facility – 6,347
- 55 Adult and 12 junior volunteers contributed a total of 5,496.5 hours of service at a total value of \$113,689.77 of in-kind match
- 10 community service workers from the local municipal court system contributed to a total of 1,500 hours

IMPROVEMENTS

- Painted trap and sporting clays houses
- Installed restroom in shotgun building
- Installed wood lattice on shotgun range concrete walls
- Extended concrete safety walls on shotgun facility.

Projects in progress

- Expansion of 100 yard range to 300 yards.
- Development of Organized Training Ranges.

Events Hosted

- State Archery FITA Indoor Championship
- State 4-H Shooting Sports Championships
- Utah State Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC)
- National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet
- WalMart charity fundraiser for Primary Children's Hospital
- United Practical Shooters Association (UPSA) State Factory Gun Championship
- Cache Practical Shooters (CAP) monthly, International Practical Shooters Association matches
- Cache Archery Club fall, winter and spring leagues
- State Archery FITA Outdoor Formal Championship
- Monthly 4-H shooting sports program
- Trap leagues
- Shotgun Turkey Shoots
- 100 yard bench rest matches
- Utah State University class service project (75 students participated)



Fee Schedule:

Adult daily pass	.....\$ 4.00
Adult 10 day annual punch pass	..... 30.00
Youth daily pass	..... 2.00
Youth 10-day annual punch pass	..... 15.00
Eye protection	..... 4.00
Hearing protection	..... .50
Firearm Targets	..... .25
Archery Targets	..... .50
Spotting Scope Rental	..... 2.00
Trap/Skeet/Riverside Skeet	.... 3.50 per round
Trap punch pass 10 rounds	..... 30.00
Five Stand Sporting Clays	..... 5.00 per round

Open and Honest

PARTING THOUGHTS FROM CONSERVATION OFFICER GARY MCKELL

In 1973, when I was sent to Hurricane, Utah, I soon met the old Arizona Game Warden that worked



just south of me. He had worked for more than 30 years when I met him. He seemed to be a good old boy and, I thought, probably honest. I remember asking him why he did not just retire, I then heard a statement that we have all heard and probably all laughed about hearing several times. He said, "why

should I retire at half of my salary, when I am already retired at full salary?" Now be honest with me, do you know any body that, at least thinks that, even if they do not say that, here in Utah? Maybe they don't have to say anything, they just act and work like that everyday.

In Law Enforcement, how many of us have used the term, "it really will be better for you to be open and honest with me" when we are trying to get to the truth of what happened in an incident that we are investigating. Most of us got at least a lecture, if not a licking as small children when we were not honest in a situation with our own parents. Those of us that have children, probably have all had a teaching moment when our own children were not as truthful as we thought they should be.

Every one of us has an opportunity, and responsibility to do what we think is important in our own districts, or within our own circle of influence. Hopefully, we can justify what we do, or do not do, in any given situation. If we can't, we should not have done it. Sometimes, things take longer than we thought it would take, and then we wonder, "now what did I do all day?" We put something down in our daily logs though, don't we? I don't mean this to be a lecture, just some thoughts from an old Game Warden that has enjoyed his career and the opportunity and responsibility to work as long and as hard as he wanted to or needed to work to accomplish the things that he thought were important at the time.

I remember one year, a long time ago, Dave Hintze and I got our yearly ratings the same day. As we talked about what had been said and what our ratings were, we decided, that if we got an outstanding rating for doing what we had done the past year, what about the rest of those lazy buggers, what rating did they get? We were both pretty good officers that did not think that the past year had been particularly outstanding in our own minds, but we signed and accepted the rating, anyway.

Here I am, about three months from retirement and writing an article that I have thought about almost my entire career. I have tried hard to keep the attitude, of working just as hard that last few years as I did in my first few years of being a conservation officer. All of us have seen the people that, like Freddie says, "lay down" before they are done. Why do we continue to allow them to do that? Why is it so hard to be open and honest within our own ranks sometimes?

I have seen a lot of officers come and go during my career, some just did not like the work or how the work was done. This is not a hard job most of the time, but it is something that you need to work at, all of the time in order to feel good about what is accomplished. Have any of you ever had a supervisor that said, "How can I convince you to work as hard as I do?" How could anyone keep from laughing in their face? What about seeing somebody get a recognition, and thinking, or hearing someone else say, "if he got that, for doing what he has done, I hope they never recognize me, I don't ever want to be that lazy."

I hope that none of us do what we do in hopes of being recognized. The "top gun" award has to go to someone, and I think that we should all be working toward that in our own minds, even though most of us will never receive that award.

Now, don't get me wrong, I have had as much fun as any two of you. I have spent many a day on "spotted owl cases" that some might call hikes in Zion National Park. I have ridden the Governor's 4-wheeler longer and farther than might have been necessary just to see what was "around the next corner." I could have been a biologist, for the number of days that I have ridden a horse on a mountain that I have learned to love. I have found more Gila Monster and Desert tortoise tracks than I have found individuals illegally collecting them.

Nobody has ever “second guessed” me on how productive I have been that day. I guess that is why I decided to share my thoughts with you. Because they don’t “second guess” us, we have more of a responsibility to be open and honest with ourselves about what we do, or don’t do. We also have a responsibility to keep each other honest by being open and honest with each other.

After you read this, go stare in the mirror and see if you like what you see. If you don’t, for what ever reason, get out there and get to work, or go offer to help some other officer that might be struggling with an investigation, or who is overwhelmed with an assignment, or give some constructive criticism, or go talk to the retirement office. We can all see things in others that they need to change, I would encourage you to be open and honest enough to tactfully let them know how you feel about it. I would also encourage you to accept what might be said to you as an effort to help make you a better officer. I know that I have truly appreciated the encouragement and help that I have received from my fellow officers throughout my career.

UTAH WILDLIFE OFFICERS ASSIST WITH THE OLYMPICS

Utah Conservation Officers were honored to assist with security on the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Forty-four UDWR Conservation Officers were assigned to assist with providing a general law enforcement presence at various venues and tasks throughout the games. These Officers were generally indistinguishable from the Law Enforcement Officers from other agencies during the game as they all wore the same yellow uniform.

Conservation Officers who were not assigned to the Games remained throughout Utah to provide the public service that they normally provide and to also cover for the Officers assigned to the games. Fortunately, from a wildlife law enforcement aspect, Utah was a generally quiet place during the Games.

Conservation Officers came prepared to work outdoors during the winter conditions experienced during the Games. In addition to the excellent equipment provided to all the Officers by the Olympic Public Safety Command; Conservation Officers, who usually work in those conditions, are equipped and experienced at enduring and enjoying the winter weather.

Conservation Officers served a wide variety of assignments during the games. Examples of these

assignments included day and night foot patrols of the venues, snowmobile patrols of the venues, manning entrance points and crowd control in general. Some Officers were assigned to plainclothes assignments and assisted with investigation of reported security risks to further security inside and outside the venues.

Conservation Officers also addressed considerations that were less obvious. For example, Conservation Officers monitored wintering big game herds for reaction to fireworks and noise at the opening and closing ceremonies and rehearsals. Conservation Officers also did what they could to keep deer, elk and moose from interfering with traffic on crowded streets and highways.

Accommodations provided to the assisting Officers in general gained some notoriety during the games. Some of the Officers from the Eastern United States complained to a newspaper that they were staying in motor homes. Conservation Officers were generally less picky and were more appreciative of the accommodations and the food and facilities provided by the Olympic Public Safety Command.

Thankfully the Games were completed without any serious security incident. To most Conservation Officers it was different from the routine to work the tight schedules in the crowded environment. Generally, they adapted and for nearly every Conservation Officer the Games were a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.

The Conservation Officers who worked at the Games and those who covered for them at home are proud to have been part of such a successful security effort. They are also proud to have helped to provide an entertaining and enjoyable experience to all those who visited Utah during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.



INVESTIGATORS

Within the law enforcement section there are currently eight conservation officers who work as investigators.

There are two investigators in the Northern, Central and Southern regions. The Northeastern has one investigator and the Southeastern region has one investigator and one open investigator position.

The investigators' primary duty is to perform and assist other conservation officers with complex wildlife crime investigations involving multiple suspects, multiple crimes, advanced forensic techniques, extensive crime scenes and other complications.

Some of the investigators have received specialized training in various aspects of advanced law enforcement that they apply and demonstrate to other conservation officers.

Below are examples of investigations that these investigators either conducted or substantially assisted with:

Northern Region — Cache County: On February 25, 2002, A Utah District Court Judge ordered a defendant to pay the UDWR restitution amount of \$461,526 for damages resulting from an unauthorized logging operation on UDWR land. In addition, the defendant was sentenced to 1 to 15 years in prison. The prison term was suspended on payment of restitution, and the successful completion of his probationary terms. A \$10,000 fine was also suspended upon payment of the restitution amount to the UDWR.

This sentencing was the culmination of an investigation that began in 1999 into the theft of 8,400 trees that were unlawfully harvested. A survey conducted by the Utah Division of Forestry-Fire and State Lands estimated the 1.5 million board feet of harvested timber was valued at about \$270,000. Over 300 acres of UDWR property were affected by the timber trespass. The survey showed 2.5 miles of new roads, and 7.4 miles of skid trails within the unauthorized logging operation.

Central Region — Salt Lake and Sanpete Counties: In November of 2002 a defendant pleaded guilty to wildlife violations stemming from an investigation initiated during the fall of 2001.

The investigator initially received a report of the illegal killing of two bull elk, one in 1994 and one in 1998. The defendant did not have a valid license for either elk according to the report.

During the investigation, the investigator interviewed the butcher who reportedly processed the elk. The investigator subsequently learned that

the butcher unlawfully possessed a live bobcat that the investigator seized. Misdemeanor charges were filed against the butcher for possession of the bobcat.

The investigator later learned that the original poaching suspect had been involved in a burglary in Sanpete County. The investigator later served a search warrant in Sanpete County and recovered \$3500 worth of stolen tools and equipment.

Finally, the original suspect was charged with wanton destruction of one elk and unlawful possession of another based on the original complain and information obtained during the investigation.

Central Region — Utah County: On November 25, 2002, a defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of Unlawful Application of a License/ Permit by Fraud, Deceit, or misrepresentation, and one count of Identity Fraud, and was fined \$925 by a judge of the Utah County Justice Court.

This investigation involved substantial documentation of the defendant's unlawful application for resident permits for big game. The defendant used the names of people who were unaware of the applications that the defendant was filing with their name and his address.

Charges were also requested in Garfield County, where it is believed the defendant took a deer using a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit permit issued to the defendant's spouse. Those charges are pending.

Southern Region — Iron and Washington Counties: An investigation conducted by a district conservation officer and a Southern region investigator showed that a group of Iron county men killed at least 14 deer and one five point bull elk illegally during the spring and fall of 2001. Many of the animals were taken out of season and some were taken without a valid license. Most of the animals were wasted. These violations occurred in the Kanarraville and New Harmony areas of Iron and Washington counties.

Officers became aware of these violations during April of 2002. Six defendants were originally charged with a total of 19 Class A misdemeanor violations and one Felony violation for wanton destruction of protected wildlife. In addition eight-misdemeanor violations unlawful possession of big game and obstructing justice were filed in Fifth District Court in Cedar City and St. George.

Five defendants pleaded guilty to various Class A and Class B misdemeanor charges in Iron County. One of these defendants also pleaded guilty to Third Degree Felony wanton destruction of the 5x5 bull elk there.

Two defendants also pleaded guilty to Class A misdemeanor charges in Washington county. Sentencing is not complete on these charges but one defendant was ordered to spend 90 days at the Utah State Prison for evaluation and he was subsequently sentenced to six months in the Iron county jail. One other defendant also received a ten-day jail sentence.

This case involved multiple suspects, numerous crime scenes and multi-jurisdictional issues. The officer's recovered bullets, carcass parts, firearms and a hidden stash of 13 sets of illegally taken antlers during the investigation.

Southeastern Region — Carbon County: On April 11, 2002, a defendant appeared in the Carbon County Justice Court pleaded guilty to three offenses: 1) wanton destruction of protected wildlife (American Kestrel) illegally taken, 2) unlawful captivity of protected wildlife (Prairie Falcon), 3) failure to complete a federal falconry permit form upon recapture of a lost falcon. The defendant was sentenced to pay fines and fees of \$555. He was given 30 days suspended upon payment of the fine

This investigation was the result of Internet research performed by an investigator who found a web page created by the defendant. On the web page the defendant chronicled the acquisition and daily events of his possession and training of the birds for falconry. The investigator discovered that the defendant did not have the necessary permits to obtain or possess the birds.

Northeastern Region — Duchesne County: On December. 30 2002, a defendant pleaded guilty to the wanton destruction of protected wildlife, a 3x5 buck deer in 8th District Court in Duchesne county. The Judge fined the defendant \$750 plus \$400 restitution and confiscated the rifle used to kill the deer in late November 2002 out of season.

This investigation began with only the carcass of a poached deer minus the backstraps. The investigator worked with the local conservation officers and together they developed enough information to eventually identify and interview the defendant who confessed.

In addition to performing investigations like these, the investigators assist and train conservation officers in law enforcement techniques including determining time of death in wildlife, field ballistics, interview techniques, crime scene investigation and others.

The investigators assist with case management, intelligence gathering and dissemination, administrative duties as assigned and coordination of investigations with other agencies. They are typically

excellent report writers and the prosecutors are nearly always complimentary of their work.

Investigators throughout the state also assist with other UDWR programs and public outreach as time and workload permits.

One of the existing investigators will assume the role of Investigator Coordinator in 2003. This coordinator will continue to assist with their regular duties but will also strive to improve the effectiveness of investigators statewide by finding ways to improve the training, skills, techniques, communication and overall efficiency of the investigators as a group. The coordinator position is anticipated to be a temporary appointment that will last 18 months.



SOUTHERN REGION

2002 was extremely busy in the Southern Region as was it for the rest of the state. The region



Lieutenant Scott Dalebout

successfully handled 514 cases that involved many instances of wanton destruction of big game species, trophy animals and threatened/endangered species.

This accounts for nearly one third of the cases in the state. Many of these are still being followed up on because of their complexity.

The region also supplied seven officers to the security effort at the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake. We are proud of the job they did to protect the citizens of the state and the rest of the world.

The Southern Region is doing its best to deal with budget and manpower shortages that plague the rest of the state. With the consistent dedication and professionalism of the officers, the region will surely weather the storm.

The most notable accomplishments in the region include the tremendous teamwork demonstrated by the officers with each other as well as other branches of the government, and especially the citizens of the state.

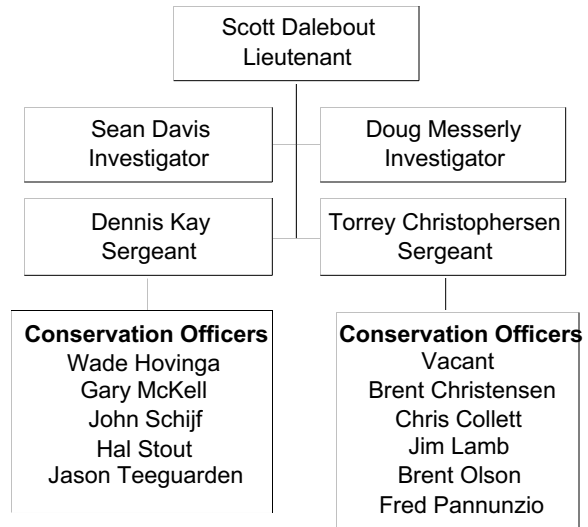
A few noteworthy cases in 2002 included the successful prosecution of a major poaching case in Iron and Washington Counties. Fourteen deer and one 5x5 bull elk were killed illegally. Officers in the region apprehended five suspects that resulted in over \$7,900 in fines and restitution.

Another case involved the wanton destruction of a trophy mule deer that was shot only because of its tremendous antler size. Disposition on this case is still pending.

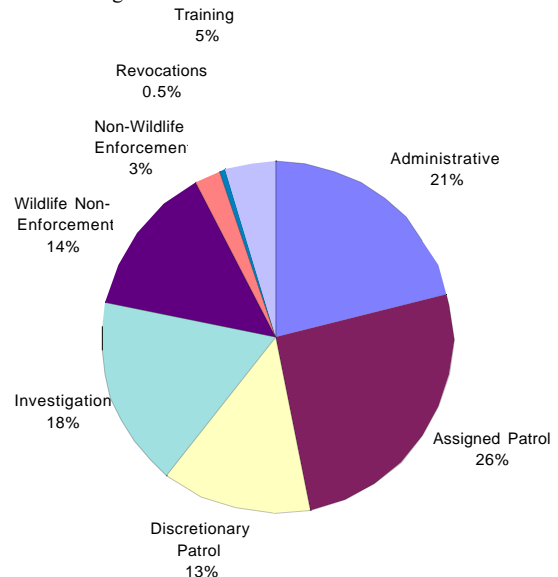
Finally, a two-year case involving the wanton destruction of 7 cougars and 16 bobcats was completed in 2002. Eight felony charges were filed against four individuals who used illegal snares to carry out the crime. 67 snares were seized in the case.

Concerned citizens who treasure the natural resources the area provides report most of our cases. We absolutely could not be successful without the help of these citizens.

Southern Region



Southern Region Conservation Officers Hours Distribution



I supervise conservation officers in the southwestern portion of the state in Iron, Washington, Kane and Garfield counties. That is in



Sergeant Dennis Kay

the neighborhood of approximately 12,000 square miles. There are six of us who make up the team that covers this area. That's not many officers to cover such a big area.

If it weren't for the teamwork and work ethics these co-workers and friends have, we would not have been able to do near what we accomplished this last year. We handled an almost 20% increase in investigative caseload during 2002. Most of these cases start when someone, a hunter, fisherman, hiker or motorist out for a drive sees something that looks wrong to them. We find out about it when that person is offended enough about what they have seen that they call someone (the local conservation officer, poaching hotline, sheriffs office, Forest Service etc) and report the problem. One of the rewards of this job is knowing I am working directly with citizens who feel strongly enough about the problem to get involved.

With that caseload, the major portion of my time in the field (part or all of 99 separate days) was spent on investigations. During this time I worked on over four dozen cases either as the case officer or helping the case officer when extra hands were needed. The majority of these cases were calls to investigate the Wanton Destruction of various species of protected wildlife. During this time, I was able to help solve 64 wildlife crimes. And we are still working on a number of these cases. Some of the most rewarding cases are when we were able to determine that no crime has been committed. These are rewarding from two perspectives. First, that someone felt ardent enough about wildlife that they would call when they saw something suspicious. Secondly that we were able to determine that those reported had committed no crime and that I was able to help show that.

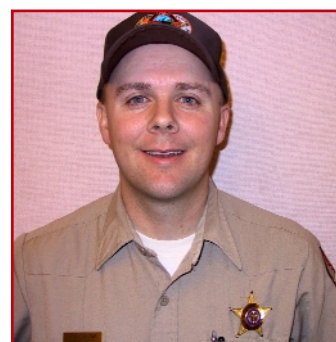
I spent another 62 days in the field working on implementing action plans that were designed to address chronic violation problems or problem areas. Many of those days were spent trying to proactively

prevent a violation by reaching out to educate people. Numerous days were also spent looking for those whose desire is to take unfair advantage of Utah's wildlife through criminal means.

One of the more interesting arrests I made this year happened when I stopped at a convenience store for a Coke on a hot St George summer day. I heard and saw a young lady calling "what are you doing" to a man in a nearby car. Ten minutes later, I had the man in handcuffs and arrested for felony vehicle burglary of the ladies car and possession of a controlled substance. It was an exciting ten minutes.

Anyway, I've told you all of that so that I can tell you this. THANK YOU for the part you have played in allowing me to work and serve in the job of protecting Utah's wildlife. I am not sure whom I am writing to. Your part could have been making the call to report a problem or buying a deer hunting license to provide money for equipment needed to process a wildlife crime scene. Maybe you were part of budgeting the money so that some was available to help fight wildlife crime or calling a legislator to encourage him to make funds available for Wildlife Law Enforcement. Thanks again for your help.

My name is Wade Hovinga. I've worked for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as a conservation officer for five years. I started my career in the Manila district and recently transferred to the Panguitch district in Garfield County.



*Wade Hovinga
Conservation Officer
Panguitch District*

The Panguitch district encompasses a large amount of Garfield County, stretching from Panguitch Lake to Escalante. Included in this district is the northern portion of the Paunsaugunt limited entry hunting unit.

Many cases arise from the Panguitch district. Whether I'm working on a trophy deer or elk case from the Paunsaugunt or Panguitch Lake to watching someone take an over limit of fish or poach a wild turkey. With such large districts, conservation officers need your help in reporting violations that occur in their districts.

I have been the conservation officer in the Zion District for 27 of my 30 years. I am not sure why this district is the #2 district in the state, he think that it should have been the #1. 2002 was the busiest year ever in the Zion district. Most of the month of



Gary McKell
Conservation Officer
Zion District

February was spent at Deer Valley, with the Winter Olympics. That was a very uneventful event for those of us that were there. Also, it's very memorable and satisfying to have been a small part of that experience.

There were 56 investigations started in 2002 in the Zion District. Several of those were for Class A or Felony violations. Several involved many suspects and lots of crime scenes to be investigated and interviews to be conducted. I could not have done it all alone. I'm very appreciative of the help that I received from fellow officers and especially Investigator extraordinaire Douglas Messerly. One of the defendants was put in the State prison for a 48 day Diagnostic evaluation and then sentenced to 6 months in the Iron County Jail for the elk and three deer that he pled guilty to killing. He is still to be sentenced in Washington County for the other two deer. He will be put in for revocation for 32 years for those violations. Another co-defendant will be put in for 24 years of big game license revocation for his involvement in the violations.

Three Action Plans can account for most of the other time that was not spent on investigations during 2002.

Kolob Reservoir, with its special regulations and large number of violations, required more help from other officers. There seemed to always be something going on at Kolob. Quail Creek Reservoir was drained down this year for repairs to the south dam and did not have much water or fishing pressure.

The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve finally has the fences in place and most of the signs are staying up. The drought caused everything to stay inside more this year and the reptiles at Red Cliffs were no exception. Sand Hollow State Park has the dams complete and the water is rising. It is closed to

fishing for 2003, but will still need some patrol. There have been a few bass and bluegill planted in the reservoir. A Sand Hollow Action Plan will be implemented to address that need. There will also be the increased need for ATV patrol on the adjacent Sand Mountain. Do I have any volunteers?

The changing of the guard will take place officially on April 30, 2003. I look forward to a long and busy retirement, but will always look back and remember with fondness the wonderful experiences that I've had in the Zion District.

2002 was my first year back in the St George district after 6 years in Cedar City. A few times during the year I remember thinking that things have got busier down here.



John Schiff
Conservation Officer
St George District

In the spring and early summer I encountered really low compliance at the "newly" established urban ponds in the St George area. These ponds are stocked by the Division (about 8,000 fish through the winter) and the ponds themselves are maintained by St George City. Most of the violations were fishing without a valid license. The common excuse was "I didn't realize you needed a license to fish in these city ponds." This despite signs at all the ponds explaining that all state laws apply. It is an excellent program and I am hopeful that this year compliance will improve.

This last summer I spent some effort on an interesting bird poisoning case. In all about 30 dead songbirds were found over a 4 month period, although I suspect that there were more. A suspect was identified and with the assistance of Bonnie Bell from the USFWS and the Ashland Lab we were able to confirm that many of the birds were poisoned with warbex. A search warrant was served on the suspect's residence and warbex as well as seeds and grain containing warbex were found. Charges are pending.

The fall was fairly quiet, although the archery hunt produced a number of cases involving hunters shooting at deer in alfalfa fields and urban areas. Three unlawful taking cases resulted (they all missed the deer); one after legal hunting hours, one with a spotlight and one after the hunter had already taken his deer.

I'm assigned to cover approximately 4,373 square miles. The terrain ranges from mountains above



*Hal Stout
Conservation Officer
Kanab District*

10,000 feet to desert as low as 3,700 feet in elevation. A variety of wildlife exists in this area including cougar, bear, desert bighorn sheep, elk, antelope and mule deer.

The district includes the Paunsaugunt, a world-renowned premium mule deer unit and the southern half of Lake Powell.

One of the cases being investigated in 2002 began with a report given by a concerned sportsman.

On October 12, at approximately 0800 hours, witnesses heard a shot and later observed two individuals gutting a deer. The deer was a 23" wide 2x3 mule deer buck. The witnesses watched the individuals drag the deer down into a wash until they could no longer see them. The witnesses later spoke with the two individuals at their truck. They noticed that the deer was not at their vehicle. The individuals told the witnesses that they had shot the deer because they did not have any more time to hunt due to the fact that they needed to get back to work.

Later that day, approximately a half hour before dark the witnesses ran into the two individuals again. They found it suspicious that they were still hunting and decided to go back and see if they had abandoned the deer.

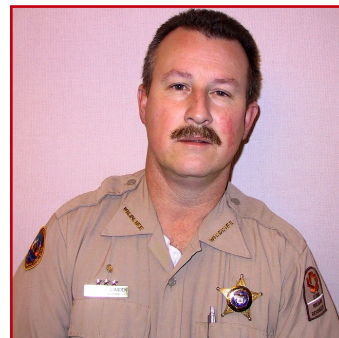
Several weeks later the witnesses returned to the location where they had last seen the individuals drag the deer. They located the remains of the buck and contacted me. I investigated the scene and collected evidence. The witnesses provided excellent information on the two suspects. The suspects were subsequently located and interviewed.

After an hour and a half of contriving a detailed lie, the suspect who shot the deer finally confessed that he was disappointed with the size of the deer and therefore did not tag the animal, left it to rot and continued hunting in an attempt to kill another deer.

Thanks to concerned citizens like these, poachers should always be looking over their shoulders and

should learn to expect a knock on their door from a game warden.

I have 18 years experience with the Division of Wildlife for seventeen years in northeastern Utah and one year in my current district in Iron County. This year has been one of major change and adjustment. Iron County is a very busy district with some very unique resources to protect.



*Jason Teegarden
Conservation Officer
Cedar District*

Iron County ranges from high mountain elk and deer country to Pinyon Juniper desert with elk and deer as well. My district stretches from 15 miles east of Cedar City to the Nevada state line to the west. This year I investigated 54 cases that resulted in various charges being filed. Patrol time resulted in many violations being detected and addressed with the appropriate free invitation to see the judge.

One of the unique resources to be protected in Iron County is the Utah Prairie Dog, a threatened species. Three investigations of reported violations resulted in charges being filed against one suspect for unlawfully taking thirteen prairie dogs and many weapons violations as well as with trespassing.

My primary duties are to supervise and coordinate hunting and fishing law enforcement activities in the central portion of the state involving conservation officers in Sevier, Wayne, Beaver, Piute and Millard counties.



*Torrey Christophersen
Sergeant*

I recently filed criminal charges on two individuals involved with the illegal taking of a buck deer by unlawful methods. A concerned citizen phoned in

stating they had heard a high-powered rifle shot and suspicious lights well after dark near Richfield. The concerned citizen believed that there was possibly a poaching incident in progress. Investigator Sean Davis and myself responded from different locations. The suspect vehicle was observed suspiciously driving without its headlights in the foothills outside of town. Investigator Davis and I closed in on the vehicle and left the occupants no way off the mountain road. After following the blacked out vehicle for some time, the truck pulled off the road. In the bed of the truck was a buck deer that had been shot in the vehicles headlights.

I have been employed by the DWR for nearly 35 years as a conservation officer. I spent six years in the



*Brent Christensen
Conservation Officer
Circleville District*

Provo area and one year in the Salt Lake Office. The rest of my career has been in the Circleville district. My area consists of parts of four elk units, the Monroe, Boulder, Dutton and Beaver.

I have some excellent fishing in his area with Otter Creek and Piute Reservoirs and a lot of the Boulder Mountain Lakes. I'm always busy with year-around fishing and excellent deer and elk hunting, and solving landowner wildlife problems.

One day last winter a neighboring Officer, Jim Lamb, called and said he had talked to a man that thought he saw someone carrying a deer out of a building in Antimony. I went to the residence where the man thought he saw the deer. Upon pulling into the yard, he saw the owner of the place step into a very small shed and close the door. I knocked on the shed door and the door slowly opened. Hanging in plain view were two doe deer. Peering around from behind the door were three sheepish looking individuals. Two more individuals were in the yard. One's statement was, "I just got here right before you did, I don't know what is going on, I am not involved, I wish I hadn't came here today". It seems two of the individuals had hit a doe deer with their truck a few days earlier. They then decided they

couldn't see the deer going to waste so they loaded it in the truck. They then decided if they were going to get dirty cutting up one deer they might as well cut up two deer so they went hunting until they found another doe deer and they shot her. They then recruited a couple of friends to help with the cutting up. Two people were charged with the unlawful taking of the animals. The other two were charged with aiding and assisting. The fifth person was released to go find a new place to hang out. The four defendants went to court and pled guilty to all counts, told the judge what they had done was really dumb. Which was just all in a days work.

I was hired by the Utah Division of Wildlife just before the beginning of the year. I spent the first few months of 2002 training in Salt Lake, and helping with security at the Olympics. At the beginning of April, I was temporarily assigned to the Flaming Gorge area. I spent most of my summer patrolling the Green River, Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Uinta Mountains.



*Chris Collett
Conservation Officer
Richfield District*

In August, I was assigned to the Richfield District. I moved my family to Richfield, and began learning a new area. I have been very fortunate in that I have a Sergeant and an Investigator in close proximity. My emphasis through the fall included enforcing the emergency closure of the Fish Lake elk unit, and working all of the other hunting seasons. I will spend a lot of time through the winter checking ice fisherman at Fish Lake, and helping resolve landowner depredation issues.

*Brent Farnsworth
Conservation Officer
Beaver District*

The Beaver District spans from the highest mountains in western Utah to



the flat valleys of the southwest desert. These extremes in habitat result in a varied workload. Most of my workload revolves around fishing and big game related activities. Deer and elk are found throughout the district, antelope are found on the southwest desert, and mountain goats inhabit the high peaks of the Tushar Range. Over fifteen fishing lakes and numerous streams are found on the Tushar Mountains. Regulations on these waters are in line with statewide regulations.

In contrast, Minersville Reservoir has stringent restrictions allowing the harvest of only one trout, which must be over 22" and is restricted to artificial flies or lures only.

During 2002, I worked five action plans to address law enforcement issues in my district. Action plans addressed areas of high recreational use and also specific law enforcement problems encountered in the past.

The Beaver District had fewer law enforcement problems during 2002 than most years, mostly influenced by the drought conditions. Low water levels hindered fishing; and a hot, dry fall made big game hunting difficult. Still, I conducted 19 investigations during 2002.

One of my major cases of 2002 occurred in December. While working on a action plan addressing illegal taking of buck deer on their winter ranges, I obtained information about two individuals on a four-wheeler who were in possession of a buck deer. I found blood and deer hair on the road where the individuals were observed and conducted my investigation from there. Backtracking the four-wheeler tracks, I recovered evidence in a side canyon several miles from where the suspects were observed. Blood, deer hair, drag marks, and footprints matching those where the suspects were seen with the deer, indicated that the site of the kill had been located.

With only the first name of the suspect's mother and a possible tie in to a cabin in the area, I continued the investigation with the help of Officer Jason Teeguarden. Through some intensive investigative work, the suspect and his girlfriend were eventually located. During an interview conducted by us the suspect admitted to taking the deer, but stated that it had been caught in a fence and he had shot it to alleviate its suffering. The suspect, presented with the information of evidence recovered at the kill site, an area where no fences were nearby, later recanted his story and admitted that he had shot the buck at the site where the evidence was collected.

I have served as the Loa District conservation officer for 11 years. I have the responsibility for wildlife enforcement on the Boulder, Fish Lake, Parker and Thousand Lakes mountains.



*Jim Lamb
Conservation Officer
Loa District*

In addition, my district includes the Escalante River canyons and the Circle Cliffs, both part of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. I can be reached at (435) 691-2073.

Loa District priorities include the endangered Utah Prairie Dog and the Sage Grouse, a species that has been in decline for decades in its historical habitat. Many big game species and premier brook trout fishing on the Boulder Mountain help make my job interesting and challenging.

Because I serve in a rural county with few peace officers I am often asked to assist local law enforcement with their duties. Recently the Wayne County sheriff's office and the drug task force arrested some area residents for operating a clandestine lab where they produced methamphetamine. A few days after these arrests I learned that one of the lab operators had poached a deer three weeks to a month prior. An investigation proved this information correct. The location of the kill was discovered and documented. Two residences and one vehicle were searched where the deer had been concealed and butchered. Meat from the poached deer and other evidence were recovered from these locations. Charges are pending for three individuals involved in the wanton destruction of the deer.

*Brent Olson
Conservation Officer
Fillmore District*



The number one concern in Millard County is the poaching of big game animals. An anonymous caller

wanted his good friends arrested for killing a 32-inch buck and a 7x8 bull elk. He identified the suspects but did not want to get involved. He had actually held the freshly killed deer head but had only heard the suspect bragging about the elk. The elk had been abandoned, but was later found in the foothills where it had been shot. The same suspects are believed to have killed other deer for their antlers.

Tips from concerned sportsmen led to several successful prosecutions. An antelope hunter had located a dead antelope that had been shot and abandoned. He observed a vehicle in the general area and noted the license plate number. Mitch Walk was subsequently arrested following an all day investigation. He had a permit but killed two antelope out of one herd and left the first one. He was contacted, as his hunting party was about to get onto Highway 6/50 to return home. He admitted to having killed two antelope. He was nervous and somewhat scared:

It was his wife who was mad. I never figured out if she was upset with me or her husband for getting caught. Walk was fined \$600 and ordered to pay \$400 restitution.

Two young hunters were arrested for killing three deer on the last day of deer season following a tip from a local homeowner. The homeowner was concerned that the two hunters were shooting too close to a foothill subdivision. One hunter had a permit but did not use it. His friend did not have a permit but claimed he was going to use the other hunter's father's tag. That still leaves one too many deer. Both hunters lost their rifles, have to pay restitution for the three deer and were fined.

A California resident visiting in-laws observed two Mexican farm workers, brothers with two buck deer in their pickup truck. The suspects did have antlerless deer tags obtained from their employer. When the deer were located the heads had been removed and neither deer had been tagged. The heads had been covered with about 10 yards of dirt using a huge front-end loader. The heads were recovered from the dirt using shovels. The case has yet to go to court.

I do receive great satisfaction in solving a case with little information. As one suspect said to me as I was putting handcuffs on him, you are having too much fun — and — he was right.

I have worked in law enforcement for some 20 plus years for Utah Division of Wildlife Resource including the Lake Powell and Delta districts. Presently most of my career has been in the Salina district out of the southern region. This district is

centrally located in Utah with a wide variety of game.

The patrol area includes Salina Canyon, Manti Forest on the north with parts of the Fishlake forest on the south. Patrols are vast with contacts made with



*Fred Pannunzio
Conservation Officer
Salina District*

sportsman engaging in all types of wildlife sports. With a lot of concerned sportsman and modern tools (cell phones, GPS) my years work will take in a lot of investigations on all types of game violations, and HSP calls, and district Action Plans.

Presently we are conducting a high profile poaching investigation with several deer being taken over a short period of time. I was contacted by a Sevier County Deputy Sheriff about some spotlighting activity at 2:30 a.m. in an area of my district. Two suspects were contacted and citations for spotlighting were issued. A follow up investigation resulted due to the fact that fresh blood, hair and a saw were found in the bed of the truck. There was also a knife and four spent casings in the cab. Presently we have possibly five people involved with 13 deer taken since around Thanksgiving. Upon completion of case reports, this case will be screened before the County Attorney and charges will be filed.



SOUTHEASTERN REGION

I am the Law Enforcement Supervisor for the Division's Southeastern Region in Price. I began my employment with the Division in November 1975 as



Lieutenant Mike Milburn

an Information Specialist in the Salt Lake office. I later transferred to a Conservation Officer position in the East Carbon District and I worked in that capacity until June of 1979.

I left the Division at that time and worked as a municipal police officer and patrol sergeant for East Carbon City until 1983. I then moved to Price and accepted a position as a Detective with the Price City Police Department.

I had the opportunity to return to wildlife law enforcement in 1990 and I have worked in Salt Lake County and now in the Southeastern Region. I've served as a Conservation Officer, a Sergeant and since 1997, as the Lieutenant supervising the law enforcement program in the Southeastern region.

The region encompasses a very large geographic area with a wide variety of wildlife habitats ranging from lower elevation deserts to high altitude alpine environments. The diversity contributes to the varieties of wildlife within the region. Virtually all species of mammals found in Utah occur within the region, including one of America's only free ranging bison herds on the Henry Mountains north of Lake Powell.

The region's law enforcement personnel are responsible for insuring the protection of the fish and wildlife resources by monitoring compliance with the regulations and investigating violations. My primary responsibility is to insure the field personnel have all the resources necessary to do their jobs. I oversee the law enforcement program with assistance from Sergeant Carl Gramlich who actually serves as the immediate supervisor of the region's six Conservation Officers.

Because of current budget constraints, we are forced to keep two law enforcement positions vacant in the region. This has placed additional burden on the other officers who are assigned to cover for the absent personnel.

I am proud to work with such dedicated employees who often go well beyond normal hours to accomplish the tasks needed to insure a continuation of Utah's wildlife heritage.

I was hired by the Utah Division of Wildlife on July 13, 1981 as a Conservation Officer. I completed my Salt Lake and Regional training tour by the end of September 1981. I was assigned to the Carbon County/Price District just prior to the start of the deer hunt in October of 1981.



Sergeant Carl Gramlich

I went to POST in January of 1982 and successfully graduated in March of that same year. In December 1988, I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Currently, I directly supervise six Conservation Officers but that number has been as low as four and as high as seven over the years. The officers and I cover the entire southeast region which includes the area around Price, east to the Colorado border, then south to the four corners area and along the Arizona border to Lake Powell. We all have a lot of responsibility and large areas that keep us very busy.

This past year has been no exception. I conducted several investigations into the unlawful taking of protected wildlife and assisted my officers with several of their cases. The winter range poaching for deer has been somewhat severe on the Colorado/Utah border these past several months. In addition to everything else that is going on, I am continuing to coordinate with the Colorado Division officers to actively work these poaching cases.

My name is Kip Draper. I am the Emery District



*Kip Draper
Conservation Office
Emery District*

Officer. This District is my first tour of duty with the Division of Wildlife Resources. I moved to Utah a few years ago after having lived in the Pacific Northwest for several years.

I attended Utah State University and received a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. I've been a Conservation Officer for almost 18 months, being in the Emery District for about 10 months. During this time, I've learned a great deal about wildlife law enforcement and the other responsibilities of being a district wildlife officer. The district includes most of the San Rafael Swell and portions of the Manti-LaSal National Forest. My district has many species of big game, good fishing opportunities, including one blue ribbon trout fishery. I am excited about the opportunities that the Emery County district has to offer me as I continue my professional career.

I grew up in northern Utah and graduated from Utah State University. I was a conservation officer in Salt Lake County from 1980 until 1990, when I became the sergeant for that area. In 1997, I took the



*Alan Green
Conservation Officer
East Carbon District*

East Carbon conservation officer district. My wife, Karen, was also a conservation officer prior to retiring in 1998. She spent most of her career tormenting poachers in Utah County.

As the East Carbon conservation officer, my primary responsibility is enforcement for the Nine Mile/Range Creek area, a small part of the Book Cliffs, and a lot of the desert country south of Price. I also spend considerable time on the Manti, especially during the spring and summer, because my district doesn't offer much fishing. Elk and bear are abundant in the Nine Mile/Range Creek area. A nice herd of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep is also found there.

I made some good deer and elk cases during the fall of 2002 with the help of some conscientious hunters and landowners, but I'm still looking for information on a string of deer poaching cases from November and December of 2000. At least five bucks were poached just north of the town of East Carbon. The head or antlers were taken from each deer, but the meat was left for the coyotes. Some of the deer carcasses were huge, so I'm sure we had some trophy bucks taken. We convicted two men of the illegal possession of the antlers from one of these deer, but we could not prove who shot any of the deer. If anyone has information regarding these or any other wildlife violations, please call the Help Stop Poaching hotline at 1-800-662-DEER. Rewards are available.

As the son of an Air Force Officer, I lived all over the country as a child. After graduating from Weber State University in 1993, I worked for the Division of Wildlife Resources as a volunteer and seasonal employee for about a year. I then worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for 2 years as a seasonal Game Warden.



*Ed Meyers
Conservation Officer
Moab District*

In 1995, I was hired as a Conservation Officer in Utah and assigned to Salt Lake County. About a year later, I applied for transfer to the Moab district where I have worked for the past 6 years. The Moab district includes some of the most beautiful scenery in Utah as well as a wide variety of wildlife. I have been trained as an EMT and am currently an ASP

baton instructor. In 2002, I conducted more than 30 investigations into the unlawful taking of elk, deer, turkeys, bears, bighorn sheep, cougars, antelope and other animals. Considerable time was spent capturing and relocating problem bears and cougars. I was also part of the large group of Conservation Officers called to provide law enforcement assistance for the Salt Lake Winter Olympics.

My name is Randall Scheetz and I am the Conservation Officer assigned to the San Juan District. The District covers the Blue Mountains, Elk Ridge and the surrounding area in San Juan County.



*Randy Scheetz
Conservation Officer
San Juan District*

During the months of April, May, and June I dealt with a depredation problem involving a landowner in central San Juan County. This particular landowner had given the Price Regional Office personnel 72 hours notice to remove deer that were on his non-irrigated alfalfa field. While working on this case I spent a number of hours hazing and removing deer. Over the three months I removed 52 deer (all shot by the landowner) from the alfalfa field and obtained CWD samples from a number of them. In dealing with this case I dealt with the landowner, sportsmen, a CWMU operator, the county attorney, and other division personnel to help with alleviating the problem. This case was partly responsible for the changes in the Utah Code requiring landowners to give division personnel reasonable access to their property to alleviate the problem before they can remove depredating animals themselves.

During the months of July through October a significant number of hours were spent on black bear nuisance complaints. This included problem bears depredating livestock and causing a nuisance in orchards, campgrounds, and within the city limits of

Monticello. Many hours were spent trapping, tagging, and relocating these bears. Some of these bears were also radio collared so that biologists could gather biological data.

During the months of August through October a significant number of hours were spent gathering CWD samples for testing. Much of this involved contacting hunters in the field and obtaining samples from harvested animals. It also included collecting samples from road kills and responding to a number of reports of sick deer in San Juan County. Many of these deer were also sent to the BYU Veterinary laboratory in Provo for further testing.

During the month of December a large portion of time was spent on a law enforcement case involving the wanton destruction of a buck deer found along the Big Indian road in San Juan County. During the investigation a suspect was identified and search warrants were served. While serving the warrants another deer illegally taken by this individual was found. This individual is now awaiting adjudication for two counts of wanton destruction of protected wildlife.

I graduated from Southern Utah University in 1991. I worked as a biological aid for the U.S. Forest Service for three years until I was hired by DWR in 1993. I started my career as a Wildlife Technician at the Loa Fish Hatchery where I worked for three years.



*Brian Shearer
Conservation Officer
Bullfrog District*

I started as Conservation Officer in 1996. After the Police Academy and field training, I was assigned to the Escalante district, where I worked until I transferred to the St. George district. In 2000, I transferred to the Bullfrog district. This district encompasses Lake Powell from the San Juan arm north to the Colorado River and the Henry Mountain range. Lake Powell has seven warm water species; largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, walleye, catfish, crappie and bluegill. The lake receives more than a million visitors a year with most coming for water sports. Because of this

multiple use the Division of Wildlife Resources has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Utah State Parks to help enforce boating laws along with fishing regulations.

The Henry Mountain range consists of four mountains stretching from the southern end of the San Rafael to Lake Powell. The mountain range has a variety of habitats. It is surrounded by slick rock desert of the Colorado Plateau and at the top of the peaks alpine tundra can be found. A limited entry deer herd is found on this range with a small but healthy population. Twenty to thirty deer permits a year are listed in the proclamation with draw odds around eighty to one of being a successful applicant. The largest free roaming hunted bison herd in the United States can be found on the Henry Mountains.

The following are some of the law enforcement concerns for the Henry Mountains; an increase in public attention to the trophy mule deer, ensuring that bison hunters identifying the correct sex of the animal on the cow only hunt, and trapping violations including long liners. Long liners are trappers from other areas of the state that trap over long distances which puts them in violation of the requirement to check traps within 48 hours. We have conducted several investigations during the past two years of bison being shot and left to waste.

I am Stacey Taggart, the District Conservation Officer for the North Manti /Price Area. I've been an officer working in the Price area for about five years. The North Manti is a heavily recreated area with a huge diversity of year round resources. Scofield Reservoir and the Manti elk herd draw



*Stacey Taggart
Conservation Officer
Carbon District*

The recent loss of water at Electric Lake has shifted fishing pressure to the already busy Scofield

Utahns by the thousands every year. With the close proximity to the Wasatch Front, the North Manti has its share of both Wildlife and non-wildlife related crime, which keeps me busy all year.

Reservoir, and the summer of 2002 proved to be a busy one. We made a record number of contacts and detected a record number of wildlife violations at Scofield through out the summer. Party hunting on the North Manti has also been a consistent problem in the past, but annual horseback patrols into road less areas and excellent informant information has helped curb some of these problems. A case in Clear Creek involving family and friends party hunting proved expensive for one member caught with an untagged elk while attempting to harvest another elk. Trespass problems in the Scofield basin also keep me busy from mid-August thru the end of January. Carbon County has a large area of winter range for migrating wildlife, and keeping tabs on elk hunters, antler gatherers, and lion hunters is the primary job in the winter months. It is a wonderful district and year round there is plenty to do.

SALT LAKE OFFICE

Officers in Training

Newly hired conservation officers, Jennifer Dangerfield and Justin Shirley, are in the process of completing their field training. Since being hired in early December, the officers have completed extensive training specific to wildlife law enforcement.

Dangerfield graduated from Utah State University in 2002 with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. Jennifer has been assigned to the east Washington county district.



Jennifer Dangerfield

Shirley holds a degree in Wildlife and Range Resources from Brigham Young University, where he graduated in 2000. Justin has been assigned to the Juab county district.



Justin Shirley

CENTRAL REGION

As was the case with the other regions, Central Region law enforcement personnel kept extremely



Lieutenant Howard Jacquart

busy during 2002. The year began with most of the region's officers working the Olympics. Everyone that worked the Olympics felt it was a rewarding, once in a lifetime experience.

Salt Lake officers kept busy early in the year moving 42 moose from the Avenues area in Salt Lake City. Officers in the region worked numerous big game felonies and class A cases, the majority of which were successfully prosecuted. One case in particular involving two individuals poaching trophy mule deer led to a theft ring being identified and suspects being arrested in Salt Lake County. One fishing case was made in Tooele County where a 96 fish over limit was encountered.

Officers in Utah County were involved in improving sportsman's access to areas around Utah Lake by their involvement in the Kuhn Sportsman's Access Easement. Officers in Salt Lake County were involved in assisting many accident victims in the backcountry while they were on bike patrol. They even had to help one of their own when he crashed on his bike. Officer Loken has since made a full recovery. Officers in Sanpete County spent a good deal of time assisting Wildlife section personnel with the mature bull elk problem in and around Sterling.

As always, Strawberry Reservoir was one of the region's focal points. Weekly assignments kept officers busy enforcing the special regulations at the reservoir.

During the fall hunting seasons officers from the region held numerous compliance checkpoints throughout the region. One of the many action plans that were carried out dealt with the backcountry fishing on the Manti mountain lakes. All officers in the region had the chance to participate in this action plan with several good over limit cases being produced. As with the other regions we struggle with budget constraints and personnel shortages in our endeavors to protect the resource.

The year started out as usual with elk problems in Utah, Sanpete and Juab counties. Control hunts, trapping, and harassment were the tools used to address the elk problems. Some efforts worked better than others. The crew was involved in helping the Wildlife Management section address elk issues throughout the winter.



Sergeant Kevin Cherry

This along with attempting to coordinate and scheduling kept me quite busy. In the middle of this along came the Winter Olympics. I had the opportunity to work at the Soldier Hollow venue. This was where all of the Cross Country skiing events took place. We had at least one event each day of the Olympics. We endured around the clock shifts and the cold weather. But overall it was quite an experience. As spring came the fishing began to pick up. The Walleye run in Utah Lake always attracts a lot of attention and how to address it is anyone's guess. With the tributaries closed this year it made the task somewhat easier.

The early part of the year is a good time to work at enrolling officers in available training that will improve their skills and productivity. Not as many classes or subjects were available as desired but the crew was interested in the improvement. Conservation Officer Vic Layton organized a Spanish for wildlife officers class in April that several of us attended for three days. It was an excellent class and I believe it has greatly helped the officers that attended. It's been hard for me to keep up on the Spanish, but I have a set of cheat sheets in the truck to use in a crunch. This spring Conservation Officer Brad Bradley, South Sanpete developed an Action Plan for law enforcement patrols on the Manti mountain lakes. This was a positive experience for everyone involved. Not only did the resource get some additional attention, but also many of the officers were able to see and work an area they had not experienced before.

In May, all Law Enforcement personnel were at Camp Wapiti. This is our annual get together and training session. The training was excellent, and the

time spent with the others in the section was well worth the effort.

Spring and summer was a continuum of scheduling, follow-up on ULEIN entry, checking fishermen, and trying to figure out what the fall hunts would bring.

The fall hunts started in August and continued at a steady pace through the end of the year. Hunting pressure seems to change from year to year, but the issues still arise and who and when they will be addressed is always a problem.

It seems that the life of a Sergeant in the Central Region does not involve the excitement of making cases as much as addressing scheduling, personnel issues, and public complaints. I do get some time for fieldwork and it is relished. I just completed my 27th year with the Division of Wildlife Resources. Onward and Upward.

I started the year off with a move from the St. George district to Utah County. Soon after my arrival I went up to Heber and Deer Valley to work



*Joe Abbott
Conservation Officer
North Utah County District*

the Olympics. I enjoyed the opportunity to see some of the events and to be able to work with other agencies at the venues. Upon my return at the conclusion of the Olympics, I jumped into district work.

There are stretches of the Provo River with special regulations and closures, all of which I had to learn. The walleye spawn was interesting. I got more than one call in the middle of the night to report violations (snagging, over limits, etc.). Often there was no validity to the reports.

My year progressed through the summer with many hours spent talking to fishermen, from the shores of Utah Lake, to the highest mountain lakes (Tibble Fork and Silver Lake), from the Lower Provo River to the Jordan River. I responded to reports of poaching which turned out to be road kills that had been dumped at the mouths of the canyons in the area. I dealt with bear problems. I had one yearling bear wander into Mutual Dell campsite, up American

Fork Canyon — it was getting into the garbage. The caretaker and three other men in the campsite attempted to run the bear off but it would not leave the area. The next day 200 young children were arriving for a camp out. Given the reluctance of the bear to leave the area and given the fact that it had been into the garbage. By policy I was required to put the bear down.

I dealt with another young bear at the cabins around Sundance. It had walked up to a cabin, looked in the window, and tapped the glass with its paw. The woman occupying the cabin was more than a little startled, and was afraid the bear was going to break into her cabin. I responded and found the bear. When it saw me it ran up the hill and I did not see it again all day. I spent a couple of hours in the area, which made the homeowners happy.

I dealt with a third bear up South Fork Canyon at the Trefoil Girl Scout Ranch. It had come into camp and was just hanging around. With the help of some of the scout workers we treed the bear. After harassing it for about five minutes it climbed down out of the tree and I hazed it with a shotgun. The camp did not have any more problems all season.

I have had the chance to deal with Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep this year. With the water situation being as it is, no water, the sheep have spent a lot of time down in town. I had a full-curl ram get hit up Provo Canyon after trying to cross the road to get to the river for water. There have also been sheep that have been found in water fountains and ponds throughout town. While it is fun to see these animals they have caused quite a few problems, with traffic and people stopping to see them.

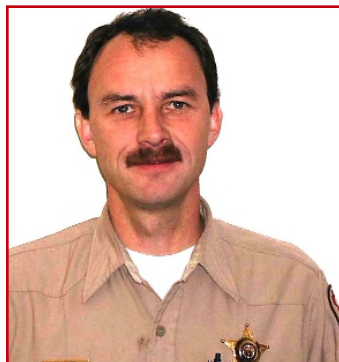
During the dove hunt I had quite a few trespass problems. People still do not seem to understand the law about cultivated land and how it applied to them and where they could and could not hunt. I had some people start the dove hunt early, but I was not able to catch them.

This fall I have had a couple of cases involving wasting. I had one man leave last year's deer in his shed where it was still hanging when I went to speak with him. His son turned him in because he was disgusted at the waste that had occurred. The son had neglected to tell me when I spoke with him, that he had shot his father's deer this year. That information came out in the interview I conducted with his father. The other wasting case I have been working on involved two brothers who both took doe deer during one of our doe only hunts and then neglected to take much of the meat. They dumped the carcasses in a dumpster in a Sears box with a UPC symbol on it that linked it to the suspects.

On the opening day of the pheasant hunt I parked my truck at the Powell Slough Sportsman Access and hiked around the slough talking with hunters. I walked across the Holdaway Pheasant Farm and ran into one of Holdaway's sons. He told me that there was a group of hunters who had been shooting hen pheasants all day. I contacted the group of hunters that Holdaway pointed out to me and found that they had shot seven pheasants, five of which were hens. I issued citations to them and I am still awaiting the courts decision on this case.

Overall it has been a fun, but busy year. I have enjoyed my district and the officers I have a chance to work with.

The year 2002 has brought several major changes. One was assuming the responsibilities of the south Utah county district. The area has offered several challenges and new issues.



*Shawn Bagley
Conservation Officer
South Utah District*

I have been working with the various sections in the region. The duties included assistance to the habitat section's stewardship over the several Wildlife Management Areas and enforcement of the recently restored Thistle Creek.

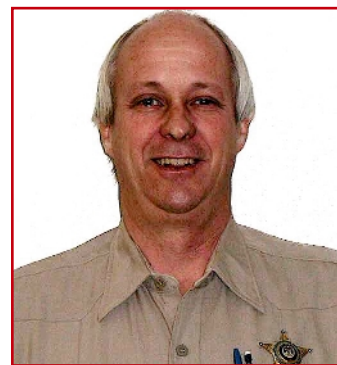
The year has been highlighted by investigations conducted with other officers and investigators.

An investigation disclosed multiple violations by one individual. The suspect had taken a bull moose, Rocky Mountain goat, mature bull elk, swan, turkey, deer and bear over a four-year period with permits. The peculiar detail was the violator had only drawn a general season deer permit in his actual name. The other permits were obtained by assuming friends and family member names, some knowing some not. Investigator Rawley has provided invaluable assistance on the investigation.

Another investigation involved the taking of a mature bull elk on the Wasatch Limited Entry unit. The investigation began with a Help Stop Poaching call. The sportsman reported observing several individuals concealing a mature elk under tree

branches during the spike elk hunt. The next step the reporting individuals took ensured their apprehension. The mountain road was under construction with heavy equipment. The sportsmen notified the heavy equipment operator of their observations. The equipment operator assured the violators awaited our arrival by blocking the roadway. Sgt. Cherry and I arrived to find the cornered outlaws. The court ordered the defendants to pay \$8000.00 restitution. The investigation and prosecution credit goes to the assisting officers, quick thinking sportsmen and a savvy equipment operator.

When I transferred to the South Sanpete District I spent three days traveling the area with my predecessor, Officer Ken Tuttle. Somewhere in the middle of driving me around the district and showing me its wealth of resources, rangeland, fisheries and uplands he turned to me and said, "Don't worry about staying busy, there's more than you will ever get done."



*Brad Bradley
Conservation Officer
South Sanpete District*

There hasn't been a day I haven't realized how true his statement was. If the office doesn't want something, the local dispatch does or the phone is ringing with questions or requests when you're trying to find time to patrol your favorite place on the mountain. That's when you get a call of a deer in a fence or a bird fallen from a nest or both at the same time... and, of course, they can't be in the same end of the county. Days off are often interrupted by a call of a poacher, a trespasser or a deer on the centerline of the highway that has to be responded to immediately. But through it all, things do get done.

Our region has the hardest working office staff you'll find and I want to thank them for their efforts in getting information out and helping me with those administrative items that I always have questions on.

With 28,000 plus acres of DWR rangeland in Sanpete county patrolling it is one thing — trying to

keep fences maintained and water systems working is quite another. Our region handyman, engineer and heavy equipment operator, Brian Thacker has been leaned on more than once this year with construction of fences at Manti Meadows and maintenance for the Shingle Mill dam and other projects.

Fisheries Biologist Don Willey has been great help and supporter of what I call the “Sanpete County Brook Project”. The stocking of brook trout fingerling into approved beaver ponds has added an extra 20 plus small fisheries to the 17 catchable rainbow-stocked waters the district supports. The project creates a vested interest in the fish by involving local fishermen who help transport the fish to these “out-back” ponds on their OHV’s. And, it means more fishing opportunities for license buyers.

This year was the third year of intensive management for the problematic Pigeon Hollow elk herd. A limited hunting strategy and herding, have made these animals wild again. We have virtually eliminated these animals from agricultural grounds west of SR-89 and reduced the vehicle collisions with bull elk to zero for the last two years. This has been a team effort with Game Manager Steve Flinders leading the administrative end of things and months of effort on the ground with Game Technician DeWayne Mower.

Lastly I want to thank my partner Matt Briggs. Matt has the North Sanpete District and is a great teammate to work with. We have spent a lot of patrol time together and have solved several class A cases. We would like to think of ourselves as the “Starskie and Hutch” of wildlife, but it is probably more like “Mutt and Jeff”. I assisted Matt on one of the more novel deer cases that I have ever been involved in. Not because the investigation was difficult or detailed, but because of the testimony of the suspect at trial. During the trial the suspect took the stand and was presented with a document, a wildlife disposal receipt, relating to his possession of the deer. When asked if he had ever seen the document before he said, “No.” He denied ever having any knowledge of it. And even pointed out that the name on the document was not his, but his wife’s.

While the defense pounded on these statements Matt leaned over and whispered something in the prosecutor’s ear. During cross examination the prosecutor got up and asked the suspect to please identify whose handwriting his wife’s signature was in. He hung his head and said, “Mine.” Matt had let him sign his wife’s name on the receipt when he

picked it up. Needless to say, the bandit did the work for us in convincing the jury he was guilty.

I moved to the North Sanpete district in 1995. Along with my regular duties, I was told to watch out for Brad Bradley, the South Sanpete Officer. My Sergeant said I’d better not learn “all” the things that Officer Bradley would be willing to teach a new officer.



*Matt Briggs
Conservation Officer
North Sanpete District*

However, over the last seven years, I have frequently enlisted Officer Bradley’s advice and worked closely with him on a variety of cases. This year has been no exception. From the information I have gained from Officer Bradley and other officers’ expertise, I have worked on and completed several wildlife cases, dealt with problem wildlife, and worked with local landowners to meet their needs.

One notable wildlife case involved working with Officer Bradley and Investigator Kent Rawley. Our Help Stop Poaching program generated this tip. I put together enough information to stop a hunter who filled several spike bull elk tags. The hunter, not having a job, hunted every day of the elk season. He harvested three or four elk a year and never validated his own permit. After staking out his residence, his normal hunting area, and a friend’s home, we made an arrest.

Charges were finally filed this year on an individual who shot four elk with a landowner permit. The incident happened four years ago and the statute of limitations was about to run out. When investigating this case, I never saw the permit and found that the elk were not on his property when shot. The landowner claimed shooters from “the grassy knoll” actually shot the elk in question, but ballistic evidence worked in our favor.

I garnered unwanted attention this summer while dealing with a problem animal. On August 1, a young male bear arrived in Moroni looking for something to eat. He had previously been trapped and relocated to Log Canyon, near Fountain Green, but decided to find someplace else to live. When I

arrived, the bear was up a tree on the main street in town and had over 400 people entertained. The bear was darted, but because of the dosage strength it didn't go to sleep. Instead he bailed out of the tree and ran surprisingly fast considering he'd been hit with four darts. Thirty minutes later and in a different tree, I was able to get a rope on one foot and around the neck. With a lot of help from other police officers and local citizens, the bear was loaded into a trap for another ride up the mountain. Things went great until the bear chewed a hole in the trap door big enough to get his head out. Needless to say, we turned it loose before getting to the planned release site.

One place where there is a great deal of landowner concern is around the Spring City area. A bachelor herd of bull elk have set up residence and caused quite a bit of damage in the agricultural areas as well as being a safety issue on Highway 89. Last year a few permits were issued to harvest some of the bulls. This eliminated car/elk accidents in the area and fewer bulls came back this year. However, a few local citizens disagree with this solution and discussions continue to take place.

Besides working with other officers, I have also been helped on wildlife cases by hunters and outdoor enthusiasts who carry cell phones. When a violation is observed, calls are made earlier and our response time is quicker. This has led to many cases being solved, problem wildlife being dealt with in a timely manner, and local citizens having their concerns heard.

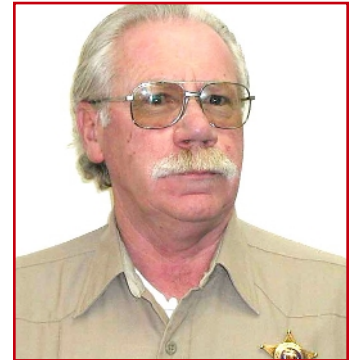
It was basically a normal year in the Hobbie Creek / Diamond Fork district. I worked athlete security for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games for a month starting in late January and continuing through most of February. I then worked heavy angler numbers for the walleye spawn from Utah Lake, summer fishing in Utah Lake, and year round trout fishing in streams.

In July I worked fire security on the East Fork Fire in the Uinta Mountains for ten days. Two other DWR officers and I apprehended and charged multiple individuals at an illegal beer keg party, who also had a fire and were discharging weapons in the closure area. The Interagency Fire Incident Team gave us commendation certificates for our efforts.

Even though I spent time working on the dove and pheasant hunts, due to lack of doves and poor pheasant numbers. There weren't many hunters.

I kept busy with heavier than normal hunter pressure and had a pleasant surprise during the general elk hunt with a major decrease in illegal kill investigations from past yearly averages.

Throughout the year I developed, responded to, and completed numerous investigative cases and wildlife violators encountered were charged with violations.



*Vic Layton
Conservation Officer
Hobbie Creek/Diamond Fork District*

I identified a potential pollution source in the design of an interstate highway expansion construction project, thereby protecting a large wetland area of Utah Lake from future pollution. I have helped in the development of an expansion project of a Sportsman's Access parking lot on Provo Bay of Utah Lake.

As the Central Region North crew Sergeant I supervise seven conservation officers throughout Salt Lake, Wasatch and Tooele Counties. I assist my officers with investigations, patrols and give them direction when they need help.



Sergeant Scott White

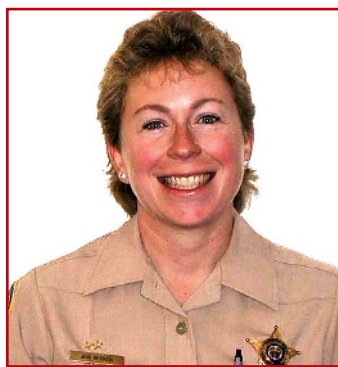
In 2002 my crew investigated a multitude of cases ranging from poached trophy deer, elk, antelope, moose and gross over limits of fish, to the unlawful captivity of a bear cub. The officers conducted excellent investigations and brought charges against suspects in many of these cases. My crew worked very hard to improve and maintain their UELIN files. All of my crew was able to participate on security details for the 2002 Winter Olympics. They

were spread out between ski, cross country and hockey venues.

In Salt Lake County, January started off very busy with too many deer and moose in town. Several officers and I spent most of January tranquilizing and relocating moose. At times we moved up to five moose per day. It seemed as though moose were just appearing out of thin air. We netted and captured numerous deer from downtown parking lots and businesses.

One day I was contemplating on how to recognize the achievements and hard work of the Central Region Officers more frequently than once a year. So with the approval of my Lieutenant, I implemented the "Officer of the Month" award. We had a nice wood plaque made and monthly an officer's name is engraved on it. The Officer also receives a \$50 IRA. The plaque is hanging in the Central Region CO's office so all can see. Monthly, the Lieutenant and the two Central Region Sergeants confer to determine who will be the next recipient of the award. The criteria is very simple, the officer who has gone above and beyond for the month or has done exceptionally well in all aspects of their position receives the award. We always try to present the award at meetings so the recipient can be recognized with his/her peers present.

District duties in Wasatch County for the year began with preparation for the 2002 Winter Olympics. Many Division of Wildlife officers, including myself, worked the cross-country ski and Biathlon venue at Soldier Hollow in Midway, Utah.



*Jodi Becker
Conservation Officer
Wasatch County District*

As Heber valley hosts the recreational backyard to much of Salt Lake valley, winter activities such as ice

The Olympics provided a great opportunity to work with numerous law enforcement agencies from around the country. Closing ceremonies ended out the month of February and patrol work began again.

fishing, snowmobiling, and cougar hunting, kept law enforcement work diverse.

In April, two Heber men began their elk hunt early, killing a trophy 6x6 bull elk. After an investigation and interview of both suspects, the district court found both men guilty and imposed \$8,000 in restitution to the "Help Stop Poaching" fund. Each of the men will begin hunting again in the year 2016.

The relatively small town of Heber affords an opportunity to work closely with other law enforcement agencies. Officer Paul Davis and myself assisted the Wasatch Drug Enforcement Task Force throughout the spring and early summer. After the closure of numerous felony drug convictions, Officer Davis and I were awarded a "Citation of Honor" at the yearly Utah Narcotics Officer's Association meetings in St. George.

The Sheriff's department utilized my K-9 drug dog "Bridger," in a number of search warrants and vehicle stops at Wasatch and Summit High Schools.

Big game hunting in the fall produced an above average number of poaching investigations on the local Cooperative Wildlife Management units, which are closed except by limited permit. With the increasing awareness of the Help Stop Poaching hotline, many of these cases were solved with the direct involvement of local hunters, observing a violation and contacting the hotline immediately.

The Strawberry Valley district is one of the busiest areas in the state of Utah. During the year 2002, I worked several cases involving wanton destruction of protected wildlife. In the spring, several arrests were made on the tributaries leading into the reservoir.

Fishermen were using unlawful means to catch spawning cutthroat trout including seines, hand nets, snagging, and even catching them with their hands. Two administrative check points were conducted to apprehend violators.

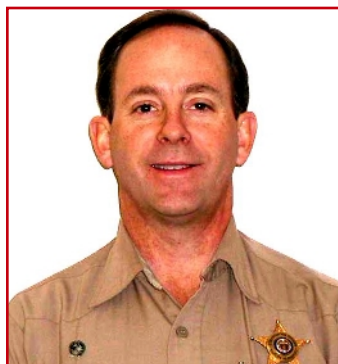


*Paul Davis
Conservation Officer
Strawberry Valley District*

During the big game hunts several cases were made dealing with the poaching of elk, moose and deer. Some highlights include: A cow elk hunter was investigated and arrested for shooting a moose. Two cow elk hunters shot and killed five elk and abandoned three of the elk. They were arrested a few days later. Several doe hunters killed deer outside their units and were apprehended.

Several other felony arrests were made in the Strawberry area. Two gentlemen with heroin and cocaine were recently prosecuted. Numerous marijuana and methamphetamine cases were also adjudicated. In the late fall I arrested two men for vehicle burglary. One man had already been sentenced on two felonies while his partner's trial date is set for late January.

January 2002 started off as many winters have in the Salt Lake valley with numerous nuisance animal



*Ray Loken
Conservation Officer
Salt Lake County*

calls. The heavy snows of the previous November-December forced higher than normal numbers of deer/elk/moose into the residential areas of the east bench area of Salt Lake County.

Fortunately the Winter Olympic Games arrived in February to provide some needed relief and a tremendous opportunity to be a part of the International Community coming together in peace.

I was assigned to the Deer Valley Venue and spent many chilly hours before and after dawn manning various posts being alert to the very real possibility of some kind of terrorist action occurring. Thankfully there were only some false alarms and a few minor incidents. This time was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year. I worked with state and federal officers from agencies across the nation. I will always remember the times I was assigned to the spectator stands and watched Olympians go for the gold.

Winter gave way to spring and then to summer and the fishing season began. Salt Lake County welcomed the addition of a couple of new urban fisheries and fishing fever took hold. Willow Park

Pond in the city of Murray was regularly stocked with catchable rainbow trout and quite a few enormous channel catfish imported from Arkansas. It was not uncommon to check over a hundred people a day at willow pond and there were also the canyon streams and the Jordan River to keep us occupied. Warm weather stimulates reptile activity and there were plenty of rattlesnake (as well as harmless species) calls to keep me happy. One memorable night, UHP dispatch called and told me a trooper had discovered a snake he believed to be a boa constrictor in an ice chest on I-15. I responded and found a dead 14' Burmese Python in an advanced state of decomposition in a large ice chest abandoned along the freeway. The inconsiderate trooper refused to haul it away and the responsibility fell to me.

Fall and the accompanying hunting seasons came not a moment too soon and provided a much needed change of duties. All of the officers in Salt Lake County have been through a POST certified law enforcement mountain bike training course. This year we put that training to the true test. Previously the mountain bikes were used mostly for checking fishermen, but in 2002 we began some serious backcountry patrols during the big game seasons. Many surprised hunters had their permits checked and I saw parts of my district I'd never seen before. I also learned the true meaning of road rash. You haven't lived until you've planted your face in the stinging nettle wearing short sleeves and biking shorts. On one of our first patrols this fall we had barely started out when we encountered a woman cyclist who had crashed and either dislocated or broken her shoulder. She and her fellow riders were grateful we were there to call for medical assistance and a life flight helicopter.

The year came to a close with an easy winter (so far) and few nuisance animals in town. The southern end of the Wasatch Front extended archery area continued to provide almost daily HSP calls and quite a few tickets to those who can't/won't/don't care enough to read the proclamation. It was not my year for any headlining wanton destruction cases but I contacted hundreds of people through field contacts, HSP calls, school programs, hunter education classes, and by the occasional wave to passerbys as I scraped deer off the highway. Talking with people and encouraging them to enjoy Utah's wildlife resource is one of this job's most fulfilling benefits and I'm grateful that I'm here to have the chance to do it.



Brad Probst
Conservation Officer
Provo River District

In August of 2002 I received a tip that a person from Riverton, had killed two buck deer on the opening day of the general archery deer season. The perpetrator had also been identified as a suspect in a theft case at a local archery shop.

On September 5, DWR Investigator Kent Rawley, a Sandy City Detective, and I interviewed the suspect at his residence where he voluntarily gave up approximately \$1000 worth of stolen property. The suspect also admitted having killed 2 trophy deer (both 24" 4x4 point bucks) in the West Desert on the opening day of the hunt. Further investigation revealed that he had killed a 28" buck deer two days before the archery hunt started in 1999. The buck was shot in the archery only area of the Wasatch front. He killed it with a .30-06 rifle that he had previously stashed on the mountain for that very purpose. Later in the day, the defendant posed with his archery equipment for a photograph with the dead deer.

On September 20, DWR Officer Mike Roach and I executed a search warrant on the defendants' residence and seized a deer mount and some weapons. On October 10, another search warrant was executed on the defendant's residence to seize a six-point bull elk rack that had been observed during the previous search. The problem was that the tag on the elk rack indicated that it had been killed on September 5 — the day defendant was interviewed at his residence. Unfortunately, he had hidden the elk rack in a different location and we were unable to seize it. During this second search warrant conducted by DWR Officers Dave Swenson, Kent Rawley, Ray Loken, and me, Carlson was also found to be in possession of twelve live Great Basin Rattlesnakes that he kept in his bedroom.

The defendant has been charged with five felonies and four misdemeanors for the wanton destruction of deer, elk, and rattlesnakes, obstruction of justice, wasting of wildlife, and the unlawful purchase of an elk license.

I am currently serving as the Provo River District Officer and reside in Wasatch County. Other highlights of working during the 2002 year include capturing wild turkeys in Kansas, assisting at the Olympic Winter Games, and helping with the Provo River Restoration Project. In January I went to Kansas with Dennis Southerland- Central Region Biologist, we captured 136 wild turkeys, and brought them back to Utah where they were released. In February, I was assigned to work at the Soldier Hollow Olympic Venue as Olympic Police. Throughout the year I have observed and assisted in the progress of the Provo River Restoration Project where the Provo River is being re-channelled to be closer to its historic and natural state. So far, the project has been a complete success and the wildlife in the area seem to have benefited greatly.

2002 started off with moose and deer coming into Salt Lake to partake in the 2002 Winter Olympics. The removal of these animals required an almost daily vigilance on the part of the Salt Lake Officers.

On one occasion we removed three moose from one neighborhood in the federal heights area before noon. The removal of nuisance animals continued until just prior to my Olympic assignment.



Mike Roach
Conservation Officer
Salt Lake County District

During the 2002 Winter Olympics I was assigned to the Park City Venue area. The weather was great and the excitement of the winter games was captivating. During the games I was able to arrest two intoxicated fans and two gatecrashers that spent more time in an interrogation room with the secret service than they did in jail. For the most part the winter Olympics was a great experience.

The spring of 2002 was spent following up on HSP calls and contacting fishermen on the new urban waters that had been stocked with fish. One notable HSP call came from an anonymous caller who informed me that his relation had been playing with a bear cub that weekend at a West Jordan address. Officer Loken and I contacted the suspect

but were unable to determine if a bear cub had been present at this address. The resident at this address insisted that they had no such animal in their home. I collected names and numbers and made a few calls and put the case to rest in ULEIN. A week later Officer Paul Davis came up with a bear cub in the Heber area. With my information, and the help of several officers a very good case was made and the bear cub was sent to rehabilitation.

The summer was made up of assignments to Strawberry Reservoir, working the urban fisheries around the Salt Lake area, and following up on HSP calls. I did catch a few nuisance animals; a badger, bobcat, a couple of skunks, several raccoons, a few rattlesnakes and one South American piranha — one more good reason not to ever go into the waters of the Jordan River. To aid in our patrols of the Jordan River and the Mill Creek area I was fitted with a new mountain bike. I only went over the handles bars a couple of times and had a great time riding the bike in the Mill creek area checking cow elk hunters.

The fall hunting season was spent on assignments and working hunters along the Wasatch front archery areas. It is amazing to me that hunters still fail to read a proclamation before hunting in a given area. The Corner Canyon area still proves to be a problem area and a majority of my time was spent working that area.

During the year I helped teach 21 hunter education courses, removed over 100 road kill deer from the streets of Salt Lake county and got very good at directing traffic at several motor vehicle accidents. I have also learned how to drive in Salt Lake traffic and be patient.



*Jerry Schlappi
Conservation Officer
Tooele District*

In 2002, the Tooele District had a variety of investigations involving everything from trophy elk and trophy antelope being poached, to gross over-limits of fish, and nongame species being taken.

People who cared enough about wildlife to call the Help Stop Poaching hotline initiated many of these investigations. Several of the investigations were successfully adjudicated because of information received from concerned citizens.

One case was the capturing of several suspects catching Rainbow and German brown trout from Vernon Reservoir. The suspects would catch several fish apiece, and then place the fish in bags and hide them in their vehicles. The suspects would then continue fishing. This went on for several hours. The fishing at the time was fantastic. When the suspects were apprehended, it was found that they had a combined 90 fish over their allowed limit. There were several other over-limit fish cases from Vernon. There were several suspects that had 40 plus fish over, some had 30 plus fish over, and some 20 plus fish over their limit.

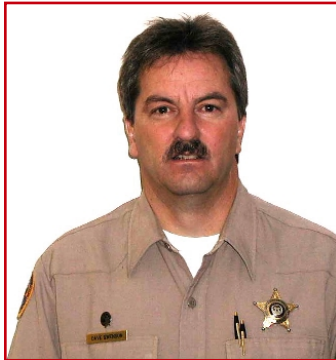
A big game case that originated from a Poaching Hotline call started at the end of 2001 and was adjudicated in 2002. Callers reported at least 6 antelope had been killed one night by spot lighters. There was no other information available. After investigating the crime scene, it was learned that an assault type weapon had been used to kill several of the antelope. After several weeks, I contacted a subject at a local grocery store who I knew had assault type weapons. The subject reacted in such a way that he became a suspect. The individual stated that he had heard something about some antelope that had been shot. The subject even offered information that no one else knew about the case. The subject tried to lead us to a false person that he had made up. The interesting part about this fictitious person was, the suspect would take parts of other person's lives that he knew and interject them into the fictitious persons life. Long story short, it took several months to finally put the pieces together. The real story was that this individual along with a friend had spotlighted and chased a herd of antelope for several hours, killing at least 6. Two bucks and four does were found. The heads of the bucks were never recovered, so it is unknown if they were trophy class or not. They used a 7.62 x 39 caliber SKS assault rifle, along with a Turkish 8 MM Mauser to kill the animals.

There were several other antelope poachings that were solved in 2002, thanks to tips given by citizens. It was a bad year to be an antelope or an antelope poacher in Tooele County.

Some cases still under investigation, carrying over into 2003 include; 3 six-point trophy bull elk were shot and left to waste during the middle part of

September in the Settlement Canyon, Water Fork area of the Oquirrh Mountains. Two of the bulls were under a hundred yards from each other. The other was just over the ridgeline from them. A trophy pronghorn antelope was shot and left to waste, just south of the Aragonite Exit, I-80. Lastly, a Peregrine Falcon was shot and killed by duck hunters at the Timpie Springs Wildlife Management area. Suspects have been identified in the shooting of the Peregrine Falcon, and the State Crime Lab is examining evidence at the present time.

The Jordanelle district includes southwest Summit



*Dave Swenson
Conservation Officer
Jordanelle District*

County including Park City, and the Snyderville Basin. It also includes north Wasatch County including Jordanelle Reservoir, upper Provo River, Woodland, and Mill Hollow Reservoir.

I have worked as a Conservation Officer for twenty-four years and have been the Jordanelle district officer for ten years. I also worked in Salt Lake County for six years and Juab County for eight years.

The Jordanelle District is diverse but a lot of my time is spent enforcing fishing regulations on Jordanelle reservoir. Jordanelle is a popular fishing hole with close proximity to the Wasatch front.

Jordanelle is becoming well known for its great smallmouth bass fishing and has special regulations pertaining to bass.

This past fall I arrested a habitual violator of fishing regulations. I was checking fisherman from a boat, and happened to check a couple of fisherman in a bass boat. The fisherman possessed an over-size smallmouth bass.

I was issuing a citation for the violation and recognized the name of the suspect. He was a person I had arrested before for fishing violations, and I was aware that he had several warrants for his arrest. I arrested him for the fishing violation and for arrest warrants totaling \$12,000. He was booked into the Wasatch County jail.

During the fall hunting seasons I patrol the mountains of Summit and Wasatch Counties. On opening day of the Elk season I just happened onto a couple of hunters bringing out a beautiful 6x6 bull elk. The only problem was that they had killed it on the "Spike Only" unit. I seized the elk and arrested the shooter.

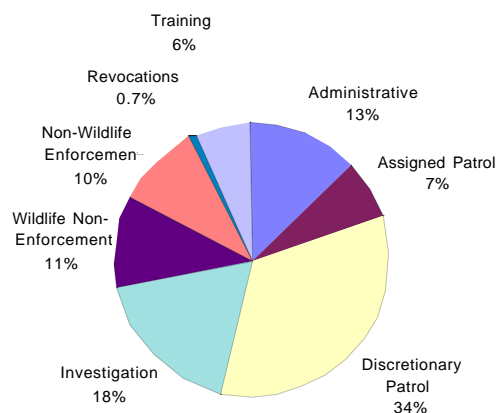
Other highlights of 2002 included working the Winter Olympics. This was a great once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and a lot of fun.

NORTHERN REGION

Northern Region

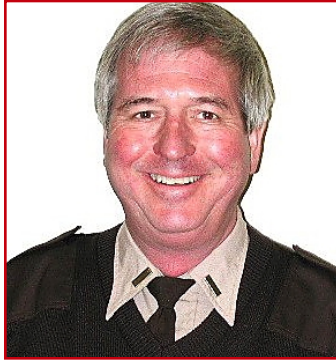


Northern Region Conservation Officers Hours Distribution



NORTHERN REGION

It was a busy year for the officers in the Northern Region. Ten officers were assigned to help at the 2002 Winter Olympics. They provided security at Deer Valley, Solider Hollow, Park City Resort, and Olympic Park.



Lieutenant Scott Davis

Officers worked approximately 65 hours per week, and even though they enjoyed the Olympic experience they were happy to come home after their three-week assignment.

Eight regional officers assisted the State Division of Sovereign Lands and Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service with the Big Wash and East Fork of the Bear River fires.

This past year regional officers investigated 380 cases, 132 of those cases were help stop poaching calls received from concerned citizens. The most noteworthy cases were those related to fifteen moose that were illegally taken during the elk and deer hunts. Officers have identified five suspects and have filed felony wanton destruction charges against four of the five suspects involved in the taking of four moose.

The Northern Region is responsible for the monitoring and compliance of brine shrimp harvesters on the Great Salt Lake. Several skirmishes occurred between brine shrimp companies while gathering eggs this past year and followed up with subsequent investigations and arrests.

Officers helped the wildlife section relocate several moose and cougars that wandered into towns along the Wasatch Front. Officers also assisted with hunter education classes, habitat and fisheries enhancement projects, big game classification counts, chronic wasting disease roadblocks, license sales, proclamation distribution, public presentations and new releases.

As a sergeant in the Northern Region I supervise four conservation officers in Davis, Morgan, Summit and Rich counties. (We also had two officer districts vacant this past year). In 2002 we investigated over 160 cases in our area, as well as responding to a myriad of public calls ranging from reports of injured or nuisance wildlife to persons committing felony

crimes against wildlife. I spent three weeks working security during the Olympics and two weeks working security on the East Fork Fire.



*Rick Olson
Sergeant*

One interesting case this last fall occurred in Summit County and began with an Arizona man turning himself in claiming he was attacked by a bull moose which he shot and killed. He said the moose "died at his feet". Conservation Officer Bob Witt and I agreed to meet with the man to investigate the situation. The following day Witt and I, along with the suspect, returned to the supposed location of the dead moose only to find no moose. The suspect said he must have made a mistake and in the excitement of the time apparently missed the moose. Later through information obtained from an informant we learned that the suspect had purposely taken Witt and I to the wrong location and that there was in fact a dead moose that the suspect had returned to later. The informant also said the suspect, who was now back in Arizona, was saying his gun was stolen in Wyoming on his trip home.

With help from the informant, DWR officers later located the dead bull moose and recovered a bullet from the carcass, which was the same unique caliber as the suspect's rifle.

With assistance from Arizona Game and Fish Officers, Officer Witt and I served a search warrant at the home of the suspect. We seized several incriminating items relating to this case, including several digital pictures of the suspect posing with the dead moose with his rifle, as if it were a trophy. Also in a bizarre twist, we found the suspect had indeed filed a report with police in Rawlins Wyoming claiming his gun was stolen from his vehicle at a truck stop. In executing the search warrant we discovered the suspect had dismantled the rifle and placed the parts in a plastic pipe. He then sealed the pipe and buried it in his back yard. Upon locating the buried gun the suspect replied, "this doesn't look good".

The 49-year old resident of Casa Grande, Arizona is currently facing a 3rd degree felony charge of

wanton destruction of protected wildlife and an additional 3rd degree felony charge for obstructing justice.

2002 was a unique year for the South Davis County District. First with the leaving of Korey Owens for greener pastures with the Idaho Fish and



*Larry Davis
Conservation Officer
Davis County District*

Game, and second the combining of the North and South Davis districts to one district. With the joining of the two districts came the increased demands on the one officer concept.

This created a reevaluation of district responsibilities and reallocation of manpower and duties. Division responsibilities, resource demands and public responses were met at a satisfactory level.

Hotline calls increased from past years. Nuisance wildlife calls also increased with the urbanization and development of what was rural county area. Cooperation with local agencies such as Davis County Animal Control, Davis County Sheriffs Office, local police departments and the US Fish and Wildlife Service helped fill in the voids. Several times calls were handled in Morgan County where the CO district was also vacant. Sgt. Rick Olson and Investigator Richard Ashcroft were invaluable in providing assistance on a variety of cases involving species from brine shrimp to opossums.

One major case investigation from a tip given by a brine shrimp involved two illegal harvest sites on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake in Carrington Bay in Tooele County. Four citations were issued to a major brine shrimp company for a total of \$5050 in fines.

Utah State Park Rangers from Antelope Island cooperated in the investigation of an illegally killed deer and two other deer that died as the result of wounds received during the rut on the island. They also assisted on the waterfowl opener, safety checking watercraft on Farmington Bay WMA. Several shore patrols on the Great Salt Lake for compliance with boating regulations and brine shrimp harvest

regulations were made with the cooperation of the Antelope Island Rangers.

The US Fish and Wildlife, Special Agents John Neal and Vance Jurgens assisted on waterfowl patrols. Their assistance with the federal airboat and long shaft flat bottom boat patrol netted several closed species citations.

New challenges with the development of Bountiful Lake, the redeveloped Farmington Pond and the newly developed Kaysville Ponds in addition to five other major urban fishing waters will exist in 2003. Further urbanization and development of Davis County will now, as in the future provide opportunities for a creative wildlife enforcement program to exist and grow.

I have been located in Summit County for almost two years. I love to be outdoors with the public and enjoy the various situations and opportunities that this career offers. I believe that "This is the greatest job in the world!"



*Bruce Johnson
Conservation Officer
Summit County District*

I not only enforce wildlife regulations, but also conduct wildlife surveys, creel surveys, and deer counts. I provide information to the biologists and managers about hunting and fishing pressure as well as success rates. I've conducted habitat surveys with the habitat personnel to evaluate its importance to the DWR and wildlife.

I've also assisted other law enforcement agencies which include responding to, man with a gun call, hit and run with a vehicle, medical assist, attempt to locate — port of entry — reckless driver — DUI, holdup alarm — in progress, and officer needs assistance. I've apprehended one ATL for drugs, two for DUI, one for Hit and Run and have been first on scene for a Medical Assist, man not breathing having a seizure. Others have been apprehended for possession of drugs, public intoxication, and parks and recreation violations. This career is not limited to just wildlife law enforcement, it provides an opportunity to help the community in many ways.

During the 2002 year I worked on 31 cases, 13 of these cases were 3rd degree felonies. I also helped my neighboring officer with several felony cases. I



Bob Witt
Conservation Officer
Coalville District

worked as a 30 days as security at the Winter Olympics and was the Security Manager for the East Fork Fire. This was a Type 1 Incident. I wrote and served four search warrants; one of these was served in Arizona.

I wrote two Action Plans. The Weber River Quality Action Plan had over 82 citations written.

During normal patrols I wrote 61 citations and 11 warnings.

In a call to the Help Stop Poaching hotline, an informant



John Pratt
Sergeant

explained he observed what he thought was a big horn sheep in the back of a Logan man's pickup. He could explain the address where the truck went, but could not give a license number.

The call came in early in November 2001. Investigator Ed Liese responded and after a week of trying to locate the vehicle, was able to make contact with the driver. The driver explained he had purchased, hunted and killed a Mouflon sheep on a ranch in the western portion of Box Elder County for \$600. He also told Liese more Mouflon sheep were present on the ranch. I continued the investigation and identification of the sheep.

Mouflon sheep are exotic sheep native to Europe. Having evolved with domestic sheep, Mouflons are immune to common domestic sheep diseases. Native

North American big horn sheep are highly susceptible to those diseases. Mouflons are known to wander if not confined behind high fences. Contact between native big horn sheep and domestic sheep inevitably result in the death of the native animal and most likely the balance of the wild herd. Box Elder County is the home of two species of wild North American sheep, the Rocky Mtn. and California species of bighorn sheep. Possession and importation of Mouflon Sheep or their hybrids are prohibited in the State of Utah. I also discovered Idaho, Nevada and, Colorado also prohibit possession of Mouflon Sheep for disease and genetic reasons.

My investigation into a positive identification of the animal involved searching the Internet and contacting a leading authority in Mouflon sheep at Utah State University. I contacted the rancher in late November and an inspection was conducted.

The rancher had several more sheep, allegedly purchased from Idaho auctions. He was not cooperative, refusing to believe my identification. In the meantime another ranch in eastern Box Elder Co. was identified as having Mouflon sheep with the intentions of selling hunts on private land for the sheep.

Again positive identification was made. This rancher recognized the health and genetic threat to wild bighorn herds and voluntarily destroyed the sheep. Officers executed a search warrant on the western Box Elder County ranch and all the illegal sheep were documented. Documents presented in court verified the presence of four illegal Mouflon Sheep hybrids that were surrendered to the Division of Wildlife by court order in early March. The animals were disposed of with the help of Hogle Zoo.

In late June, Officer Rick Schulze observed a strange antelope in fields adjacent to Corinne, again in Box Elder County. Officer Schulze and I responded, but it wasn't until late September of 2002, that the animal was positively identified. An automobile on State Route 83 hit and killed it. The animal was identified as an Indian Blackbuck. The Blackbuck is also a prohibited species for genetic and disease reasons. Schulze and I traced the animal back to a Utah County source. The animal had been released in Corinne for the purposes of hunting. When contacted the owner told Schulze he released four Blackbucks. The Box Elder County Attorney's office is currently reviewing the incident for prosecution. At least two more Blackbucks remain at large avoiding capture.

In other states, such as Texas, game ranching exotic species of wildlife for hunting, has been a lucrative business. There has been a trend in Utah to import and release exotic species for hunting purposes. Where native species or domestic livestock are at risk from diseases, genetic contamination or public health risks, Division of Wildlife Officers have and will continue to respond. For more information, or copies of the current Collection, Importation and Possession of Zoological animal regulations, contact any Division office.

As a new officer with the Division, this year has been a learning experience. The majority of my time



*Doug Ahmann
Conservation Officer
West Weber District*

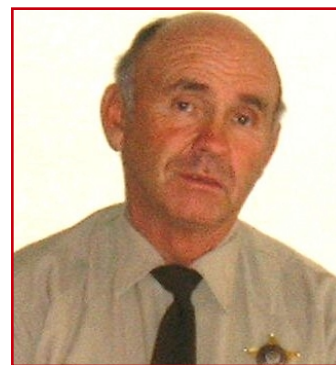
at the beginning of the year was spent working at the 2002 Winter Olympics as security at Deer Valley Resort and learning the area with my FTO, Officer Mitch Lane.

The enforcement of fishing laws consumed most of my general patrol time, on the Ogden and Weber Rivers, Causey Reservoir, and Pineview Reservoir with new bait restrictions, making up the major bodies of water.

One case that stands out is the Broadmouth CWMU. A hunter trespassed onto the CWMU from the Liberty/Avon Divide road. He walked over a mile and a half on the CWMU and shot a 6x6 domestic elk that was in a special pen, part of the CWMU's breeding stock. The hunter said when questioned he was not aware he was on a CWMU or that he could not see the ten foot high fence that the large domestic elk bulls were in.

I investigated a dead moose that was shot with a bow and arrow above Wellsville Spring in Sardine Canyon on September 5, 2002. I received a phone call from a concerned hunter who saw the moose alive the night before and he thought it had been shot with an arrow and left. Upon investigating the case, I contacted a young man from Perry, Utah, who admitted that he had shot the moose by mistake,

thinking that it was a doe deer. The defendant was later charged and pled guilty to a 3rd degree felony and was fined \$700. The court also imposed a five-year suspension of the defendant's big game hunting privileges.



*Verl Hanchett
Conservation Officer
South Cache District*

My most notable case in 2002 was a landowner who over the past two years has killed approximately 147 deer over his claim that he had deer damage.

The landowner killed the deer in the spring - most of which were does, pregnant with fawns. The deer were shot during March and April. The ground was frozen during much of the time damage was claimed.

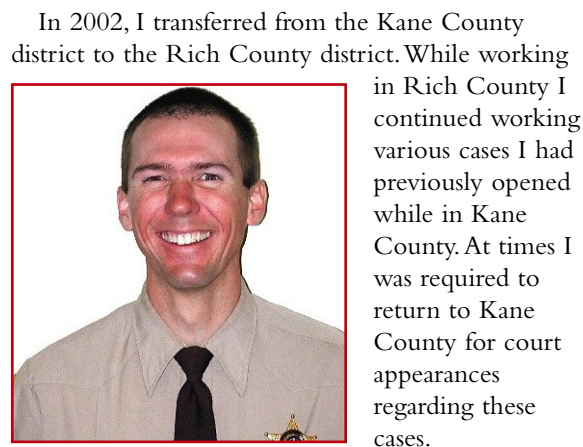


*Cory Inglet
Conservation Officer
Tremonton District*

The Division of Wildlife Resources could not prove that he did not have damage and so felt it could not deny his claim of damage to his crop of winter wheat. The Division also felt at the time of year there could be no damage to crops, because the crop had yet to grow on the ground.

The deer left the landowners property in May when the wheat really started to grow. I decided to evaluate the damage to the crops by putting baskets in the landowner's fields. Deer would not be able to graze inside the baskets, but could graze outside of the baskets. At harvest time a comparison could be made between crops grown inside the baskets and crops grown outside the baskets. That comparison

was made in June. Data showed more productivity outside of the baskets where the deer had grazed than inside the baskets. This proved that the damage claimed by the landowner was not valid. The results of this study are typical, and have been done before in evaluating damage on winter wheat grazed in the fall and spring by deer and elk. With this report in the Directors Office, it is hoped that unsubstantiated landowner claims can be stopped, preventing senseless loss of wildlife.



Kip King
Conservation Officer
Rich County/Bear Lake District

While working in Rich County I have worked on 21 cases which have generated 5 class B misdemeanors, 5 class A misdemeanors, and 1 third degree felony.

Each of these cases resulted in a conviction and many of the individuals convicted were suspended, or are in the process of being suspended, of their hunting or fishing privileges. I also issued numerous citations for wildlife violations and assisted local law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of other laws.

Aside from law enforcement, I assisted landowners with wildlife depredation as well as the application and future creation of a CWMU for big game. Furthermore, I assisted the area biologist with big game surveys, sage-grouse counts, and other biological work. I also assisted the Rich County Sheriff's Office on their search and rescue team. Additionally, I spent two weeks working with the National Forest Service on the East Fork of the Bear River fire.

From the viewpoint of a conservation officer in Weber County, this is a district, which is about half

urban and half rural, 2002 brought a wide variety of duties. General patrol ranged from fishing all year long on the Weber, Ogden, and South Fork of the Ogden Rivers and on Pineview and Causey Reservoirs,



Mitch Lane
Conservation Officer
East Weber District

to waterfowl and pheasant hunting in the western part of the county, and deer, elk, and moose hunting in the eastern part of the county. A considerable amount of time was spent specifically at Pineview Reservoir, working on an operational goal addressing new bait restrictions, the keeping of under size tiger musky and bass, and over limits of yellow perch and crappie.

Investigations consumed a large amount of time and were diverse in nature. In March, after working security for three weeks at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, two cow moose were shot with a .45 caliber handgun and left near Causey Reservoir. No suspects were immediately known, but later in the year some possible suspects were identified. The case is currently still under investigation.

In June, a fish kill in Birch Creek, near its confluence with the Weber River in Riverdale, was traced back to a location in South Ogden where cement workers spilled a large amount of cement, which consequently ended up in a storm drain leading to Birch Creek.

The investigation into an illegal Commercial Hunting Area and the unlawful release of protected wildlife began in August and is still under way.

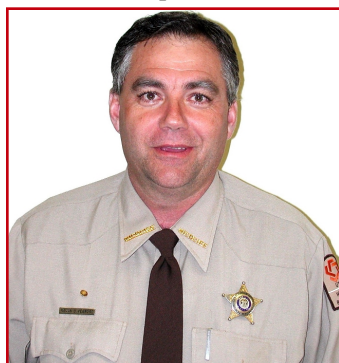
In October, during the general bull elk hunt, an investigation into the unlawful taking of a 6-point bull elk on Deseret Land and Livestock began. Charges, possibly of a 3rd degree felony, are ready to be filed with the Weber County Attorney's Office.

In November, after receiving a report of late shooting and possible baiting, Sergeant John Pratt assisted in the apprehension and arrest of two individuals for hunting geese with toxic shot and unplugged shotguns, hunting geese 49 minutes after legal hours, and hunting geese over bait. The suspects had scattered whole cobs of corn in a field and were

attempting to take geese as they came into the field to feed on the corn.

Throughout the year, several cases involving the possession of protected or prohibited animal species were also investigated. The animals in those cases were a raccoon, Canada geese, garter snakes, a Bengal tiger, and a caiman.

At about 1:00 a.m. on November 6th, 2002, I received a telephone call from a Cache county sheriff



*Kevan Penrose
Conservation Officer
North Cache District*

deputy. The deputy had stopped two hunters, a father and adult son, with a 6x7 bull elk head and was suspicious of the hunters explanation of where they had been hunting.

I interviewed the hunters and was told by the son that he killed the elk on the Ogden Unit. He said they only had time to bring out the head and antlers. He said the rest of the elk was still on the mountain and he would try to bring the rest of it out in the afternoon.

That afternoon he showed me where he had hunted and said the elk was about 5-7 miles away. He expressed concern that he might not be able to find the elk and he hiked up the mountain to look for it. The area he described was private property that he did not have permission to hunt.

I called him later that night and was told he could not find the elk. He said he would look again tomorrow. I informed him that I would need to see the elk carcass and called him several times over the next few days. Each time he reported that he could not find the rest of the elk.

On November 9th I met with both the father and son again and discussed the situation. I told them they would have to find and show me the elk carcass even if it was next spring.

On November 11th I was contacted by a local attorney representing the son and his father and was told that they would like to meet with the Cache County Attorney and me. The meeting took place the next morning. The son said he could not keep

the lies up any longer and admitted he killed the elk on the Cache spike elk unit. He said that they brought the meat out and it had not wasted. He explained the circumstances of his hunt and how he had watched the big bull elk and was tempted to shoot it even though he knew it was not be legal. He apologized for all the lies and hiking up the mountain in the wrong place and knew that he would eventually have to show me the elk carcass.

The Cache County Attorney offered the son a plea in abeyance agreement on one felony count of wanton destruction of protected wildlife (6x7 bull elk) in a spike only area. Stipulations to the agreement included the forfeiture of his muzzleloader rifle, the elk head and meat to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Also to be included were: 100 hours of service to be performed at the Cache Valley Hunter Education Center; donation of \$3,000 to the Help Stop Poaching hotline and his big game license would be suspended for the mandatory 14 years.

The hunter said he never thought of himself as a poacher before and said he would accept the agreement. He said he was just about to graduate from Utah State University in Environmental Science and would probably lose his job prospects with the U.S.F.S. as a result of his stupid decision.

On March 10, 2002 Box Elder County sheriff deputies requested assistance of conservation officers at a residence in

Box Elder County where a Forest Service search warrant was being executed. In addition to the stolen federal property officers were looking for, officers found drugs and two fresh trophy class deer heads.



*Richard Schulze
Conservation Officer
Brigham City District*

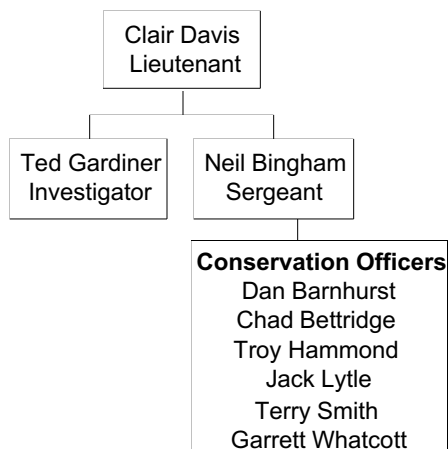
At least two suspects resided in a mobile home and a camping trailer located on the property. Neither suspect initially provided any information. Officer Verl Hanchett, Investigator Ed Liese and I continued the investigation. A number of individuals

were interviewed and a witness was discovered. From interviews, we learned both deer, one a 24" 4x9 and the other a 28" 3x4, had been shot with a high-powered rifle out of season, at night, and with the aid of a spotlight. The suspects made numerous night trips in search of deer during the fall and winter of 2001-02. Informants explained it was something the suspects did while high on drugs. On one incident state officers contacted the suspect only hours after the unlawful taking, but without any firearms or deer. Both sheriff's deputies and wildlife officers seized firearms from the primary suspect prior to the search warrant, due to his earlier felony convictions.

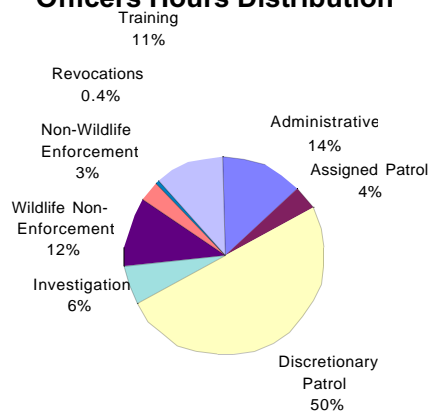
The primary suspect in the illegal killing of the deer and who was also the suspect in the theft of the federal property was living in the camp trailer and is a convicted felon. He is currently in federal custody, pending the adjudication of theft of federal property, possession of drugs, and possession of firearms charges. He has been charged with two felony counts of wanton destruction of protected wildlife on the trophy deer in state court.

NORTHEASTERN REGION

Northeastern Region



Northeastern Region Conservation Officers Hours Distribution



Front Row Left to Right:
Conservation Officers Dan Barnhurst, Terry Smith and Sergeant Neil Bingham.

Back Row Left to Right
Conservation Officers Chad Bettridge, Garrett Whatcott, Troy Hammond and Jack Lytle

NORTHEASTERN REGION

There have been several changes within the Division of Wildlife Resources over the last 32 years.



Lieutenant Clair Davis

The name was changed from the Utah Fish and Game Department in 1971 and the Division was integrated into the Department of Natural Resources. Some changes have been good and others probably not so good.

I began working summers for the Fish and Game Department in 1968 and began a full time career in 1970 as a Game Warden in Moab, Utah. After a couple years, I was “drafted” into what was being organized as an “Agents Crew” consisting of four undercover officers working statewide on special projects.

At the end of 1973, I was selected as the Northeastern Regional Law Enforcement Officer or “RP”. Later the title was changed to Lieutenant. The past 29 years in the Northeastern Region have been very rewarding and many outstanding employees have passed this way.

The job description of the Conservation officer changed from the multipurpose officer, working in all aspects of the Division, to one who is somewhat specialized to law enforcement with decreased responsibilities in the other sections. At that time, a few Conservation officers switched over to become biologists to equalize the responsibilities in each district. The officers continue to be involved in the management sections as much as possible.

The tools available to the officer have improved immensely over the years. The patrol vehicles are very comfortable and the advanced electronic equipment has allowed the officer to become much more productive. The use of cellular phones has enabled the officer to be more accessible to the general public; and the advancements made in ballistics and DNA testing has resulted in many successful prosecutions.

The Northeastern Region is the smallest of the five regions in the state but it is rich in wildlife resources. There are tremendous elk herds, quality

deer herds and trophy fishing waters. Both species of bighorn sheep are found in the region as well as mountain goats, small game, upland game and an abundance of bear, cougar and furbearers. Many endangered species are also found here.

In the late 70's and 80's the region experienced a boom in the oil, gas and synfuel exploration. This subjected our wildlife to more human interaction and made the animals more vulnerable to poaching. The laws were strengthened which helped deter some of the poaching activity. Felony violations were introduced into the Wildlife Code and as an agency, we are continually trying to stay ahead of the poacher.

We have trained professional wildlife officers who have chosen this profession because of their dedication to the wildlife resources in the state. It is my privilege to work with them.

Sergeant Neil Bingham

I began working for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in 1971 as a tech on the range evaluation crew. In August of 1972, I entered into the conservation officer training program.

After completing the training I worked out of the Salt Lake office until assigned to the West Summit County (Kamas), conservation officer district in the Northern Region. Less than two years later I was asked to move to the East Juab district in the Central Region where I had worked for nearly five years when the Duchesne District came open. I wanted to put in for the district; but my wife and I decided that we couldn't afford to move. About a month later I spent a week in the High Uintas where I had spent a lot of time while growing up. I really got homesick for those mountains and since the Duchesne District was still open I called Law Enforcement Chief Jim Ware the day I got home and he gave me an immediate assignment to it. I moved to the Northeastern Region September 1, 1979 and have worked there ever since. As the district officer, I really enjoyed the work. The Duchesne District has everything that makes the job worthwhile with its high country lakes and streams, elk, deer, antelope, upland game and enough variety to keep things interesting.

In 1987, I received the assignment of Area Conservation Officer in the Northeastern Region. The position is now listed as Sergeant. I supervise six conservation officers assigned in Daggett, Uintah and Duchesne counties. The area has some of the best hunting and fishing in the state. The diversity of the

region makes it easy for the officers to maintain their enthusiasm for the job and makes my job easier than if I had to continually push them to do theirs.

During my 30 years in wildlife law enforcement I have been involved in a lot of interesting cases. One that sticks out in my mind occurred several years ago in Duchesne County. I was doing night work in Sowers Canyon about fifteen miles south of Duchesne. At about 2:30 a.m. a truck drove into the fields I was watching.

After hearing a shot, I pulled onto the road the truck was exiting the field by. Instead of stopping when I hit it with the red light, the truck left the road driving through brush to get around me. I got turned around and behind the truck when I observed one of the stupidest things I've ever seen.

The poachers were driving at breakneck speed down a winding dirt road when I saw a man crawl out of the passenger side window. He clawed his way into the back of the truck. He then threw the small buck they had poached out onto the road then crawled back through the window. We had a wild ride for about 20 minutes at which time all three men were ordered out of the truck at a road block manned by a deputy sheriff that dispatch woke up in time to make the stop. They all got a free ride to jail while their truck got a not so free ride behind a wrecker. It still amazes me the lengths poachers will go to and the risks they will take to ply their trade

Dan Barnhurst
Conservation Officer
West Vernal District

I've worked for Utah Wildlife Resources since October 1985 and loved most every minute. In February, I moved back to Vernal from the Dutch John district where I had been for ten years. I spent much of the last year getting to know my new district- West Vernal.

It's been a productive and rewarding year. I didn't write anywhere near the number of citations I normally did in the Flaming Gorge – Green River area. But I was involved in some good quality cases.

Pelican Lake produced some over-limits of largemouth bass and bluegills. In one case a man kept 12 bass and his partner kept 18, twice and three times the legal limit respectively. I had several cases involving hunters trespassing on private property. One man beat-up his truck by going down a four-wheeler trail then shot the lock off a gate in an effort to escape me. Catching a father and son team

that stole a bobcat and trap belonging to another trapper was satisfying.

The big game hunts really kept me running. I received more Help Stop Poaching hotline calls this fall than the last ten years in my old district.

One case began when a concerned elk hunter checked on an adjacent camp where they hadn't seen anyone around for several days. While looking around the camp he found fresh hindquarters of a deer in a cooler. When I finally identified and located the owner of the camp, he claimed the meat was from a buck he had killed with his bow over a month before and that he had kept the meat fresh in the cooler since then.

A subsequent tip from another source led me to a doe carcass that only had the hindquarters and back straps removed. This carcass was located within 100 yards of the man's camp. I'm confident DNA will show it's the same deer.

Another interesting case involves two men from a group called the Timpanogos Tribe that killed a buck deer out of season. This group is trying to assert they have tribal hunting rights as individuals with Indian ancestors. They carry a letter from the Timpanogos Tribe authorizing them to kill a deer or elk for subsistence.

Chad Bettridge –
Conservation Officer
East Duchesne District

I have been here for two years. The Northeastern Region is a very unique region to work in. There is such a variety of hunting and fishing opportunities out here that there seems to always be something going on. My district is home to a very successful limited entry elk hunt and an equally successful limited entry antelope hunt. I also patrol the south slope of the Uinta Mountains

This mountain range provides opportunities such as deer and elk hunting, as well as antlerless hunts. Mountain goats have been reintroduced to the area and have done very well providing a hunting opportunity as well as a wonderful chance to watch this interesting animal in the wild. It is also a very good mountain lion hunting area. Fishing opportunities are also in abundance in my district. Fishermen are able to catch Arctic grayling and all types of trout in the high mountain lakes to large and smallmouth bass in the reservoirs down in the valley. This district truly has an activity for anyone and everyone interested in wildlife.

Because of the various species of animals roaming throughout this district it does have its share of problems. 2002 seemed to be a hard year for moose. I worked on at least five different cases involving moose being shot. One case in particular involved a hunter who shot and killed a mature bull moose thinking that it was an elk. The hunter abandoned the carcass without even walking down to it. He left it dead in a small reservoir. Fortunately, there were other people in the area who witnessed the incident and called the Help Stop Poaching line to report what they had seen. I was able to find the hunter who shot the moose and prosecute him.

Troy Hammond
Conservation Officer
Tabiona District

I graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelors degree in Wildlife Biology. I have been in the Tabiona District since March of 2002. My district includes the western half of Duchesne County, and a small portion of Wasatch County. I have enjoyed the diversity of my district with great fisheries, trophy big game, waterfowl, and upland game opportunities. Recently, I have been impressed with the public support of our Help Stop Poaching campaign.

During the 2002 elk hunt I received 18 poaching hotline calls that resulted in 12 arrests. There are many honest sportsmen, willing to speak out against wildlife crimes and I know firsthand many of these cases would never have been solved without their help. Being a conservation officer is very rewarding, and a dream come true. I love my job and look forward to going to work everyday. I am excited about the future and hope I can have a positive impact on the sportsmen of our state.

Jack Lytle –
Conservation Officer
Dutch John District

I've been employed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources since November 1985. I was hired as the Roosevelt District conservation officer and held that position for nearly 9 years before accepting a position as Regional Habitat Project Leader in Vernal for 4 years. This position led to me becoming the Regional Habitat Program Manager, which I held for 3 years. In February 2002 I was allowed to return to the Law Enforcement ranks when the Dutch John District became available.

I am very glad to be a Conservation officer in the Dutch John District. This District encompasses the very northeast corner of Utah and includes Flaming Gorge, the Green River, and the Brown's Park area. The District is predominately made up of public land administered by the USFS and BLM.

During the spring and summer most of my time is spent either on the Green River or Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Both of these waters receive a great deal of fishing pressure and provide world-class opportunities for the angling public. My time during the fall and early winter months, as expected, is focused on the big game (elk, mule deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, moose, and antelope), upland game, and waterfowl seasons. During the winter months trapping and cougar hunting are the most prevalent draws on my time.

This District provides a great variety of wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities for the public to enjoy.

Terry Smith
Conservation Officer
East Vernal District

I have served as a Conservation Officer in Utah since 1988. The district I was assigned originally was Escalante, where I spent four plus years. The remainder of my career has been served in the East Vernal District. I have had an interest in providing training to other officers. The skills I have obtained as a certified instructor include O.C. spray, Defensive Tactics and Baton. In addition to providing in-service training, I have used these certifications to teach P.O.S.T. classes in the Uintah Basin Satellite Police Academy.

The East Vernal District has two limited entry deer and elk units. The Book Cliffs and Diamond Mountain deer units are relatively new and are now producing good quality bucks. Naturally, with the quality bucks come the challenges of increased poaching. The public has played an important roll in some of the cases that have been made over the years. The reward permit program has made a difference in the number of calls received by the Poaching Hotline. There has been felony wanton destruction cases made on both units. For example, a case that is pending occurred in the Book Cliffs, which involved two 26-inch bucks being killed by a single permit holder. A person with a general season permit and the other with the limited entry permit each tagged one. A second case occurred on Diamond Mountain involving a hunter with a cow

elk permit. The permittee allowed a friend to shoot twice at the elk before he shot five times at the same herd. When the dust settled two branched antlered bulls and two cows were dead.

The Vernal Districts have some of the states best bass fishing. Steinaker and Red Fleet Reservoirs provide great fishing. Diamond Mountain has three reservoirs that provide good trout fishing for the whole family. A large part of the Vernal officers patrol responsibilities is to enforce the fishing regulations on the surrounding waters. There is an opportunity to work many of the waters with the neighboring officer, which makes a nice change from working alone.

Garrett Whatcott
Conservation Officer
West Daggett/Manila District

I have a degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology from Southern Utah University. I have been working for the Division for just more than one year. I like to fish, hunt and photograph wildlife.

Within my district I have a wide range of wildlife and terrain. My area encompasses the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, which is well known for its Kokanee salmon and large lake trout. I also have some of the high Uinta mountain lakes within my district. The wildlife that roams in my district includes antelope, deer, elk, moose, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and a few mountain goats.

Some of the problems that I have encountered this past year were people fishing in closed waters, hunting in the wrong area, and killing animals out of season. During August, the Kokanee Salmon make their annual spawning run up Sheep Creek from Flaming Gorge Reservoir. The river needs to be clear of beaver dams and obstacles and it is quite time consuming during the fall months.

A case I have worked on this past fall is a wanton destruction case involving a cow elk that was killed by a teenage boy from Wyoming. A gas store clerk told me that someone saw a person kill a cow elk during the general season bull elk hunt.

The next day I contacted the informant who took me to the kill site. I asked for help from our regional investigator on the case. We interviewed a few people and came up with a suspect. My neighboring officer and I interviewed the individual and found that an older man was also involved in shooting the elk. Charges were filed on both suspects.



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Wildlife Resources

